FREE GIFT!
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

SCOUTING REPORTS ▸ DEPTH CHARTS • MVPs • ROSTERS • STATS

PFW7

Pro Football Weekly

ProFootballWeekly.com

PREVIEW 2012

SUMMER 2012

NFL Kickoff

VIKINGS
▸LOOKING TO MOVE UP IN THE TOUGH NFC NORTH

BEARS
▸HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS AFTER LATE-SEASON COLLAPSE IN 2011

PACKERS
▸DIVISION FAVORITES THINKING SUPER BOWL AFTER EARLY PLAYOFF EXIT IN '11

DISPLAY UNTIL AUGUST 1, 2012

PRICE: $7.99

0 09281 01188 0 25

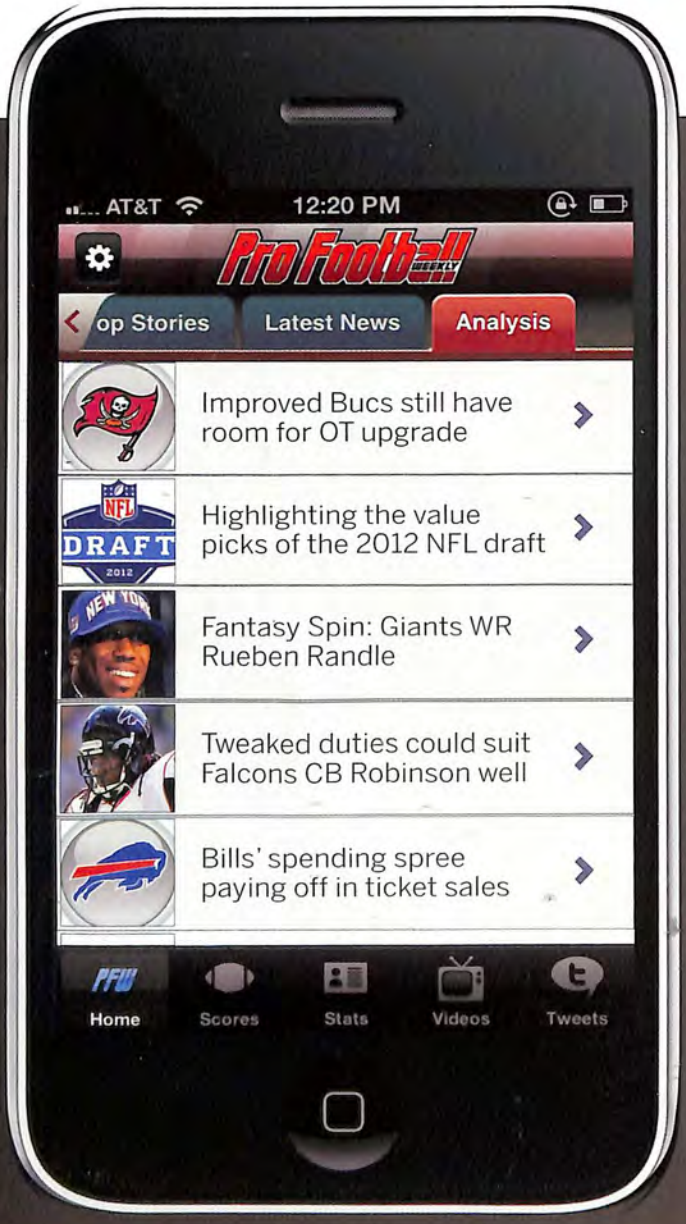
PLUS ▸ X-FACTORS
THE KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR ALL 32 TEAMS

PFW SUPER 50
▸CHECK OUT OUR PLAYER RATINGS

PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY | PREVIEW 2012

$7.99

Pro football. Pro insights. Delivered daily.



Pro Football Weekly gives you NFL News on the go with our Pro Football Insider app

- ***Analysis from PFW experts***
- ***The latest news from around the league***
- ***Fantasy football rankings and advice***
- ***Network-quality video reports***
- ***Tweets from around the football world***
- ***Scores, stats and standings***

"Pro Football Weekly does provide 'The Best Coverage in the NFL.' It is and always will be must reading for me." — **Rex Ryan, Head Coach, New York Jets**

Search your app store for "Pro Football Weekly."

Available for iPhone, iPad, Android, BlackBerry, PlayBook and Windows 7.

Make
ProFootballWeekly.com
your **DAILY** source
for NFL information

At ProFootballWeekly.com, the Best Coverage in the NFL is at your fingertips 365 days a year.

- The Way We Hear It, with insider info on every team.
- Winning fantasy football advice and analysis.
- Daily videos on the hottest topics.
- In-depth NFL statistics.
- Analysis of breaking news as it happens.
- Handicapping advice.
- Year-round NFL draft coverage, including scouting reports on the top prospects.
- PFW Online, our print edition delivered electronically.

Pro Football Weekly.com

www.profootballweekly.com

Pro Football Weekly

CREATORS & FOUNDERS
Arthur Arkush, Robert Drazkowski and Joel Buchsbaum

ADMINISTRATION
Publisher/Editor Hub Arkush
General manager Mike Waters

EDITORIAL
Editor-in-chief Keith Schleiden
Art director Bob Peters
Managing editor Mike Holbrook
Executive editors Dan Arkush, Neil Warner
Senior editors Nolan Nawrocki, Eric Edholm, Mike Wilkening
Associate editors Matt Feminis, Kevin Fishbain, Eli Kaberon, Dan Parr, Arthur Arkush
Fantasy editor William Del Pilar
Editorial assistant Michelle Wasserstrom

NEW MEDIA
Publisher Sue Nemitz

PFW VIDEO
Senior producer Adam Anshell
Video assistant Tristan Riddell
Production assistant Mark Schoeck

BUSINESS OFFICE
Network support tech. Bob Boklewski
Distribution manager Arthur Arkush
Subscription manager Kristine Carlsson

ADVERTISING SALES
Director of marketing Phil Hornthal
AD SALES OFFICE: 1-847-940-1100

Cover photos by Al Wire, CSM, Jeff Fishbein, Icon Sports, KRT Photos, Bruce L. Schwartzman, Harry Scull, Jr., SportPics, UPI, TUSP and Zuma

Pro Football Weekly
302 Saunders Road, Suite 100
Riverwoods, Ill. 60015

Subscription: (800) 366-8225
General inquiries: (847) 940-1100
Fax: (847) 940-1108

NFL

6 KICKOFF SECTION

THE WAY WE SEE IT: PFW's take on some of the biggest issues facing the NFL this season

7 PRESEASON POWER RANKINGS
8 NEW HEAD COACH PROFILES
9 2013 NFL DRAFT PROSPECTS
10 ROOKIE METER
12 FANTASY BREAKOUT PLAYERS
14 Q&A WITH FALCONS QB MATT RYAN
15 NFLIST
16 AUDIBLES

18 X-FACTORS

A player or coach on each team that will play a huge role in influencing the amount of success it enjoys in 2012.

2012 NFL PREVIEW **GIFT**

Thanks for buying the **Pro Football Weekly 2012 NFL Preview.** As a special thank-you gift for your purchase, we are offering you two issues of Pro Football Weekly. You will have online access to the digital edition of the first two issues following the start of the regular season (available Sept. 11 and Sept. 18), which will feature game previews, updated depth charts, picks against the spread and much more.

2012

ALSO

NFL'S MOST IMPROVED TEAMS FROM WITHIN

Eric Edholm lists the teams he believes will move up in the standings despite not making huge offseason moves.... **24**

PLAYER RANKINGS

Rating the NFL's best of the best at each position, plus our Super 50.... **30**

FANTASY FOOTBALL

PFW's exclusive 2012 draft board..... **49**

PHOTO BY SPORTPICS

2012 PREVIEW

Team scouting reports by the PFW editorial staff.

Projected order of finish by the PFW staff's consensus.

NFL PREDICTIONS..... 4

AFC EAST

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS.. 50
BUFFALO BILLS..... 54
NEW YORK JETS..... 58
MIAMI DOLPHINS..... 62

AFC NORTH

BALTIMORE RAVENS..... 66
PITTSBURGH STEELERS.... 70
CINCINNATI BENGALS..... 74
CLEVELAND BROWNS..... 78

AFC SOUTH

HOUSTON TEXANS..... 82
TENNESSEE TITANS..... 86
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS.. 90
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS..... 94

AFC WEST

DENVER BRONCOS..... 98
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS.....102
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS.....106
OAKLAND RAIDERS.....110

NFC EAST

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES....114
NEW YORK GIANTS.....118
DALLAS COWBOYS.....122
WASHINGTON REDSKINS..126

NFC NORTH

GREEN BAY PACKERS.....130
CHICAGO BEARS.....134
DETROIT LIONS.....138
MINNESOTA VIKINGS.....142

NFC SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS.....146
ATLANTA FALCONS.....150
CAROLINA PANTHERS.....154
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS..158

NFC WEST

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS....162
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS.....166
ARIZONA CARDINALS.....170
ST. LOUIS RAMS.....174

2012 NFL SCHEDULE..... 192

ALL ROSTERS AND DEPTH CHARTS AS OF MAY 7

2011 REVIEW

Standings..... 178
Red-zone efficiency; turnover table..... 179
Team statistics..... 180
Team rankings..... 182
Individual statistics..... 184

WHEN YOUR FREE GIFT IS AVAILABLE, JUST GO TO OUR REDEMPTION CENTER AT:

http://www.profootballweekly.com/redeem/

AND ENTER PROMO CODE: **GFT647PV2**.

You will need to be registered on our Web site in order to use the Redemption Center.

OFFER EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

SPORTPICS

AFC

EAST	NORTH	SOUTH	WEST
1 NEW ENGLAND **PATRIOTS** (12-4)	1 BALTIMORE **RAVENS** (10-6)	1 HOUSTON **TEXANS** (10-6)	1 DENVER **BRONCOS** (9-7)
2 BUFFALO **BILLS** (8-8)	2 PITTSBURGH **STEELERS** (10-6)	2 TENNESSEE **TITANS** (8-8)	2 KANSAS CITY **CHIEFS** (9-7)
3 NEW YORK **JETS** (7-9)	3 CINCINNATI **BENGALS** (8-8)	3 JACKSONVILLE **JAGUARS** (5-11)	3 SAN DIEGO **CHARGERS** (8-8)
4 MIAMI **DOLPHINS** (4-12)	4 CLEVELAND **BROWNS** (6-10)	4 INDIANAPOLIS **COLTS** (4-12)	4 OAKLAND **RAIDERS** (6-10)

DIVISION WINNERS ▶ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS • BALTIMORE RAVENS • HOUSTON TEXANS • DENVER BRONCOS

WILD CARDS ▶ PITTSBURGH STEELERS • KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

NFL PREDI

SPORTPICS

NFC

EAST	NORTH	SOUTH	WEST
1 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (10-6)	1 GREEN BAY PACKERS (12-4)	1 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (10-6)	1 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (12-4)
2 NEW YORK GIANTS (10-6)	2 CHICAGO BEARS (10-6)	2 ATLANTA FALCONS (10-6)	2 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (7-9)
3 DALLAS COWBOYS (8-8)	3 DETROIT LIONS (9-7)	3 CAROLINA PANTHERS (8-8)	3 ARIZONA CARDINALS (7-9)
4 WASHINGTON REDSKINS (7-9)	4 MINNESOTA VIKINGS (4-12)	4 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (4-12)	4 ST. LOUIS RAMS (4-12)

DIVISION WINNERS ▸ PHILADELPHIA EAGLES • GREEN BAY PACKERS • NEW ORLEANS SAINTS • SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

WILD CARDS ▸ NEW YORK GIANTS • CHICAGO BEARS

SUPER BOWL XLVII

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

OVER

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

CTIONS 2012

THE WAY WE SEE IT

THE EDITORS OF PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY OFFER THEIR THOUGHTS ON SOME OF THE 2012 NFL SEASON'S BIGGEST STORY LINES

CAM NEWTON

PANTHERS' TEST INCLUDES MANAGING GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Change can happen quickly in the NFL, as the Panthers can attest. While they missed the playoffs and finished below the .500 mark, their improvement on offense in 2011 was dramatic — they scored more than twice as many points as they did one season prior, and won four of their final six games after a ghastly 2-14 finish in '10. They will have greater expectations when they arrive for the start of the 2012 season. Is Cam Newton ready to go from being productive on an emerging team to a playoff quarterback in his second season? Will the defense be at least average after setting a franchise record for most points allowed? The Panthers are on the right track under head coach Ron Rivera, but in one of the league's more competitive divisions, Carolina still has a lot of improving to do before it's ready to beat the big boys. Rivera has to make sure the preseason buzz doesn't go to his players' heads. A challenging early-season schedule could prove to be humbling.

— DAN PARR

PENALTY PROBLEM A CONCERN FOR RAIDERS

The most common phrase fans heard when watching a Raiders game in 2011 wasn't a description of a Darren McFadden run or a Richard Seymour sack. It was, "And there's a flag on the play." Oakland was penalized 163 times last season for 1,358 yards — an average of 10.2 penalties for 84.9 yards per game — both of which were NFL single-season records. CB Stanford Routt, who was the biggest culprit on the team with 17 penalties, was released by the Raiders for a variety of reasons, one of them being his inability to avoid being penalized. New head coach Dennis Allen preached discipline at his introductory press conference in January and will look to change the culture of the organization. Given the way the team played last season, his toughest task may have nothing to do with wins and losses, but more about eliminating the yellow flags that fly at the Silver and Black on such a regular basis.

— ELI KABERON

SEVERAL COACHES, YOUNG AND OLD, FACE PIVOTAL SEASONS

The real talk of "hot seats" shouldn't begin until the weather cools. But it's hard, in these summer months, not to consider the number of coaches who enter what they might call significant stretches. Recent history shows the three-year plan might be an outdated one, which means that Dallas' Jason Garrett, Minnesota's Leslie Frazier and Cleveland's Pat Shurmur — each with fewer than 32 games under his belt — must show improvement to feel completely secure. Even mainstays, such as the Chargers' Norv Turner and the Bears' Lovie Smith, are far from bulletproof. Turner clearly is under more pressure than Smith, but the Bears have a new general manager, so all bets are off if they unexpectedly tank. Plus, coaches like Washington's Mike Shanahan and Buffalo's Chan Gailey are both in need of a spark entering their third season. No wonder their teams went "all in" this offseason with bold moves. Then there's Andy Reid, who came back to the Eagles for a 14th season, but not without some serious internal debate. If Reid is vulnerable with a .609 win percentage during his time in Philly, who isn't?

— ERIC EDHOLM

JETS WILL BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT ... AGAIN

Rex Ryan's club went up in flames at the end of last season. Locker-room issues were made public, and criticism rained down on the fearless coach. Ryan admitted this offseason that he might tone down his bravado in terms of making grand predictions, but his team didn't do Ryan any favors in avoiding the spotlight by trading for Tim Tebow, an absolute lightning rod who will be playing in a New York media market that thrives on controversy. The second that Mark Sanchez falters, which is likely based on his history of inconsistent play, there will be plenty calling for a QB switch — even those who know Tebow might be better-suited as a role player. Gang Green is no stranger to attracting attention, but another season with poor results could put Ryan squarely on the hot seat, and with Tebow in tow, all eyes once again will be on the Jets in 2012.

— KEVIN FISHBAIN

FALCONS HAVE BIG CHANCE TO SURPRISE

For a consistent, talented, contending team, the Falcons aren't getting much love. They have finished above .500 in each season since 2008, but they are not

favored to win their division. New Orleans widely gets the nod in the NFC South, and many believe Carolina is on the rise, too. The Falcons? They're old news. They haven't won a playoff game since 2004. Nevertheless, this is the time to buy into Atlanta. The Saints will be without head coach Sean Payton. The Panthers are still a work in progress, and the Buccaneers are even further off the pace. The Falcons have a strong offense and a good-enough defense. They are threats in the NFC, and at a big price to boot.

— MIKE WILKENING

• • •

'PRO BORE' SHOULD HAVE BEEN ICED YEARS AGO

Let's all hope the reports at presstime suggesting that the NFL was strongly considering doing away with the Pro Bowl are right on the money. In my football-filled world, the Pro Bowl has been an unwatchable, terribly anticlimactic annoyance for as long as I can remember. What I would not mind seeing at all in its place is a live, glitzy, star-spangled awards show on national TV, in which all of the Pro Bowl recipients are enthusiastically acknowledged, with highlights of their flashiest plays from the season providing some extra pop. The league also could reveal all of its individual award winners, something it initiated last year, with the announcement of the league MVP coming last, offering an Academy Awards-type flair. Get some of the hottest names in the world of entertainment involved, and you've got yourselves one helluva show. It sure beats the Pro Bowl — a perennially bad show if there ever was one.

— DAN ARKUSH

PFW PRESEASON POWER RANKINGS

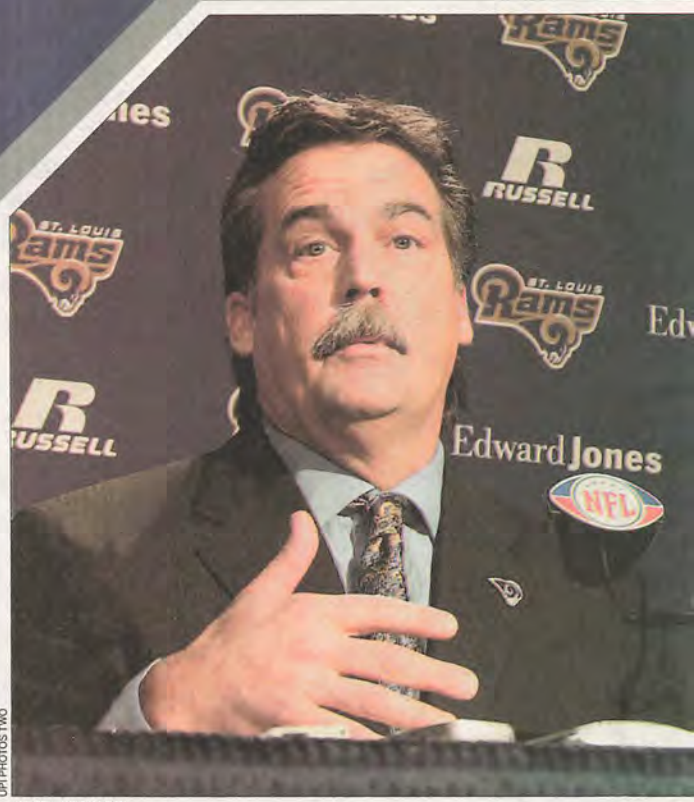
RANK	TEAM	SB ODDS*	THE SKINNY
1	NEW YORK GIANTS	12-1	Another ho-hum offseason, which probably means they win it all again.
2	SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS	6-1	Jury still out on how much WR firepower they have added, but elite defense covers much of that.
3	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	6-1	Think they'd like a replay of the Super Bowl with all the defensive pieces they've added?
4	GREEN BAY PACKERS	9-2	They know they can't survive with the same caliber of pass defense as last season.
5	BALTIMORE RAVENS	8-1	Flacco says he's elite; last questionable guy to do that (Eli Manning) backed it up pretty well.
6	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	8-1	Additions of DeMeco Ryans, Fletcher Cox solve run "D" and stamina in front seven.
7	HOUSTON TEXANS	8-1	Now we get to find out if Matt Schaub is a title-worthy quarterback.
8	PITTSBURGH STEELERS	12-1	They know they were fortunate to keep Mike Wallace for at least another season.
9	NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	10-1	How much more will Drew Brees be asked to do following tumultuous offseason?
10	CHICAGO BEARS	10-1	With Jay Cutler, Matt Forté back, dangerous team gets better on offense and special teams.
11	ATLANTA FALCONS	30-1	Dome-field advantage will be tested with Broncos, Cowboys, Saints and Giants all visiting Atlanta.
12	DETROIT LIONS	10-1	Expectations are for 2011 rookies (Nick Fairley, Mikel Leshoure, Titus Young) to produce now.
13	DENVER BRONCOS	8-1	Peyton Manning can't do it all, but look how many problems he covered up with Colts.
14	CINCINNATI BENGALS	35-1	Andy Dalton will learn from playoff loss, and he will be expected to take a leap in Year Two.
15	KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	35-1	All dependent on QB play — if Matt Cassel is on, talent is there to steal back the division.
16	TENNESSEE TITANS	40-1	Jake Locker watch in full effect; with healthy Kenny Britt, addition of Kendall Wright, pieces are there.
17	DALLAS COWBOYS	10-1	They now have the two corners they need to play Rob Ryan's press-man, blitzing scheme.
18	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	22-1	No pressure to perform, right? Flashpoint season for coaches and key players alike.
19	CAROLINA PANTHERS	30-1	Be careful not to assume Cam Newton will make a jump from his shockingly good rookie season.
20	BUFFALO BILLS	40-1	Added to "D" to battle the Patriots and others. Now Ryan Fitzpatrick must show he's the man.
21	NEW YORK JETS	15-1	Will their big-name additions do more than fuel chatter, sell jerseys? Rex must do his best coaching.
22	WASHINGTON REDSKINS	30-1	RG3 isn't a cure-all, but he wakes up an offense that needed some serious juice.
23	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	30-1	Building talented defense, ball-control offense that could tilt the power out West slightly.
24	ARIZONA CARDINALS	40-1	Still concerns about the offensive line, Kevin Kolb's confidence, but "O" is more dynamic.
25	OAKLAND RAIDERS	25-1	How fast will new regime wait to pull plug on several veterans?
26	CLEVELAND BROWNS	80-1	Trent Richardson exactly what Cleveland fans needed. But what about Brandon Weeden?
27	JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	100-1	Sleeper team if Blaine Gabbert can prove the (many) doubters wrong after only one season.
28	MIAMI DOLPHINS	40-1	Defense still looks solid, but everyone watching to see how long Matt Moore fends off Ryan Tannehill.
29	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	30-1	Adrian Peterson's health and Christian Ponder's development are the early story lines to track.
30	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	60-1	Greg Schiano's goal: make this team tougher, especially mentally. That includes you, Josh Freeman.
31	ST. LOUIS RAMS	50-1	Improved division makes road back to respectability just a few miles longer.
32	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	75-1	Tempering expectations for Andrew Luck — Peyton Manning was 3-13 with 28 interceptions as a rookie.

* — Odds to win SB XLVII as of May 1, courtesy of MGM Resorts International Race & Sports.

BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL

EIGHT **NEW HEAD COACHES** ARE ON CENTER STAGE FOR THE SECOND SEASON IN A ROW

JOE VITT



UPI PHOTOS TWO

JEFF FISHER

A mixed bag is being provided by this year's crop of new head coaches. Four of the eight newcomers have been NFL head coaches previously, counting Joe Vitt on an interim basis in St. Louis in place of Mike Martz in 2005. But four others are unproven commodities about to set sail on their maiden voyages as head coaches in the pro ranks.

DENNIS ALLEN
OAKLAND RAIDERS

After only one season as a defensive coordinator, the 39-year-old Allen is the youngest head coach in the NFL. He led the Broncos' "D" to mixed results a season ago. However, he is a branch on the coaching trees of Dan Reeves, Wade Phillips, Gregg Williams and John Fox, all defensive-minded coaches who preach an aggressive style. Allen will try to bring that to Oakland, improving a unit that ranked 29th in both yards and points allowed last season.

ROMEO CRENNEL
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Crennel, 64, was hired full time by the Chiefs during the offseason after taking over on an interim basis for the final three games of the 2011 season following the dismissal of Todd Haley. In those three games, the Chiefs beat the playoff-bound Packers and Broncos, their two best wins of the campaign. Crennel, the team's defensive coordinator since 2010, will try to build off his previous head-coaching experience, when he led the Browns to a 24-40 mark from 2005-08.

JEFF FISHER
ST. LOUIS RAMS

The 54-year-old Fisher returns to the NFL as the third-winningest active head coach in the league (142-120) behind only Bill Belichick and Mike Shanahan. With only six losing seasons in a 17-year career as the head coach of the Titans, Fisher's teams appeared in one Super Bowl and two AFC title games and won three division titles. But as well-qualified a replacement as he appears to be for Steve Spagnuolo, it's also worth noting that his teams reached the postseason only twice in his last seven seasons in Tennessee and lost both games.

MIKE MULARKEY
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

The Jaguars are hoping the second time is the charm for Mularkey, who compiled a 14-18 mark with the Bills in his first stop as a head coach in 2004-05. Mularkey, 50, spent the past four seasons as offensive coordinator for the Falcons, overseeing the development of Falcons QB Matt Ryan. Mularkey's work with Ryan — as well as his previous head-coaching experience — boosted the comfort level of GM Gene Smith. No. 1 on Mularkey's to-do list is developing QB Blaine Gabbert and improving the NFL's worst passing offense in 2011.

CHUCK PAGANO
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

The latest in a line of fast-rising coordinators out of Baltimore, Pagano joins the Colts after spending the 2011 season as the Ravens' defensive coordinator. This is the first head-coaching stint for the 51-year-old Pagano, who inherits the No. 1 overall pick, QB Andrew Luck, and the difficult task of trying to plug a lot of square pegs into round holes. Pagano, who prefers big, aggressive players for his 3-4 scheme, must overhaul a 2-14 roster that, for years, valued speed and athleticism over size and physicality.

JOE VITT
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

With Sean Payton suspended by the NFL for the entire season as part of the punishment for the Saints' "Bountygate" scandal, owner Tom Benson and GM Mickey Loomis turned the reins over to Vitt, Payton's right-hand man. Vitt, who has been the team's assistant head coach/linebackers since Payton was hired in 2006, is only keeping the seat warm until Payton returns, and he's expected to steer the ship just as Payton would. Vitt, 57, has served as an interim head coach before — he stepped in for Mike Martz with the Rams in 2005. Vitt, however, will be suspended for the first six games of the regular season for

DENNIS ALLEN

ROMEO CRENNEL

MIKE MULARKEY

CHUCK PAGANO

JOE PHILBIN

GREG SCHIANO

his role in the bounty program, and the Saints will have another assistant from their staff fill in until Vitt is reinstated, setting up a potentially awkward in-season passing of the baton.

JOE PHILBIN
MIAMI DOLPHINS

Philbin wasn't the first choice, but he comes to Miami to try to get the franchise back on track. The Dolphins are coming off their third consecutive losing season — the first time that has happened to the team since 1969. Philbin took the job amidst tragedy, joining Miami less than two weeks after the death of his son. His success with the Packers' offense was a big plus for Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, who has been looking to field a high-scoring team in South Florida.

GREG SCHIANO
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

After being turned down by Oregon's Chip Kelly, the Bucs lured Schiano from the college ranks after 11 seasons as the head coach at Rutgers. He has experience taking over a downtrodden program and instituting the culture change necessary to get his team's fortunes headed in the right direction. That's the task he faces with a Bucs team that lost 10 consecutive games to close last season after starting 4-2. Ownership expects Schiano to bring a disciplined, detail-oriented approach.

EARLY LOOK: TOP TALENT

PFW LISTS THE BEST PRO PROSPECTS BY POSITION ENTERING THE 2013 COLLEGE SEASON

The 2012 draft is in the books, meaning it's time to focus on studying the talent available for 2013 and beyond. Following is a list, by position, of the players who head into this season with the most distinguishable talent at their respective positions. All sizes and 40-times are estimated.

SPORTPICS

MATT BARKLEY

QB Matt Barkley | #7
USC / SENIOR
HT: 6-2 **WT:** 230 **40-YARD:** 4.8

Having taken tremendous strides under the guidance of Lane Kiffin, Barkley does not have overwhelming physical traits. However, he will be a four-year starter, three-time team captain, is well-versed in a pro-style offense and has natural passing skills.

RB Le'Veon Bell | #24
MICHIGAN STATE / JUNIOR
HT: 6-2 **WT:** 235 **40-YARD:** 4.55

Big, strong and agile for a power back, Bell possesses very good eyes and instincts, not to mention a strong stiff-arm and quick-cutting ability. Capable of beating tacklers with strength, power or quickness, he has the makeup of a bell-cow back.

WR Sammy Watkins | #2
CLEMSON / SOPHOMORE
HT: 6-1 **WT:** 200 **40-YARD:** 4.40

Although the true sophomore does not yet qualify to enter the draft for another year, he showed as a true freshman that he was the most talented receiver in college football, displaying maturity beyond his years.

TE Tyler Eifert | #80
NOTRE DAME / JUNIOR
HT: 6-6 **WT:** 250 **40-YARD:** 4.65

An athletic receiving tight end with natural hands and terrific ball skills, Eifert is an immediate-impact pass-catching weapon with a wide catching radius.

OT Taylor Lewan | #77
MICHIGAN / JUNIOR
HT: 6-8 **WT:** 300 **40-YARD:** 5.15

A very long-limbed, strong, tenacious blocker who fires off the ball flat-backed and generates movement in the run game, Lewan has the agility, quickness, balance and anchor strength to handle the left or right side.

DE Michael Buchanan | #99
ILLINOIS / SENIOR
HT: 6-6 **WT:** 245 **40-YARD:** 4.65

A long, lean, explosive edge rusher who popped out more than Houston Texans first-round pick Whitney Mercilus a year ago, Buchanan can bend the corner and was far more disruptive than his 7½ sacks indicate, as he often flushed production to his teammates, especially Mercilus, who was the nation's sacks leader.

DT Kawann Short | #93
PURDUE / SENIOR
HT: 6-3 **WT:** 310 **40-YARD:** 5.05

A disruptive inside presence with outstanding press strength, Short is seldom moved off the ball and can control the line of scrimmage and work the edges.

LB Jarvis Jones | #29
GEORGIA / JUNIOR
HT: 6-3 **WT:** 240 **40-YARD:** 4.65

A quick-handed, football-savvy edge rusher ideally suited for a 3-4 rush role, Jones really came on in his first year on the field after transferring from USC.

CB David Amerson | #1
NORTH CAROLINA STATE / JUNIOR
HT: 6-2 **WT:** 195 **40-YARD:** 4.45

An athletic, playmaking cornerback with exceptional length and body control to play the ball like a receiver, Amerson has unique press-man cover skills highly desired in the NFL.

S Eric Reid | #1
LSU / JUNIOR
HT: 6-2 **WT:** 210 **40-YARD:** 4.50

A tough, instinctive secondary leader who consistently comes through in the clutch, Reid is a playmaker who keyed the Tigers' win at Alabama last season.

— NOLAN NAWROCKI

ROOKIE METER

ROBERT GRIFFIN III

Predicting the Rookie of the Year award this early can be a crapshoot, but the top honors the past two seasons have gone to the first two picks in the draft. Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III can't each win the award, but the two quarterbacks certainly will be favored. This list looks at the potential impact of first-year players as we begin our season-long analysis of the race for Rookie of the Year.

❶ Robert Griffin III
QB / WASHINGTON REDSKINS

The Heisman Trophy winner enters the nation's capital with lofty expectations. With a big arm and running ability, Griffin should get off to a good start in Mike Shanahan's offense. He has better weapons around him at receiver and running back, compared to Andrew Luck, and his opportunities to score with his legs will enhance his production.

❷ Andrew Luck
QB / INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Luck will look to be the third consecutive No. 1 pick and quarterback to win the top rookie honors. He is certainly ready to take over an NFL team, and there shouldn't be much of a learning curve. However, a Colts squad that was the worst in the NFL last season might not give him as many chances to succeed. Luck and Griffin will be monitored closely throughout their careers, and the comparison begins with the race for Rookie of the Year.

❸ Trent Richardson
RB / CLEVELAND BROWNS

A running back hasn't won Rookie of the Year since Adrian Peterson in 2007, but Richardson has a shot. The clear-cut best back in the draft will be a workhorse in Cleveland and enters the season as the team's top playmaker. But playing against rugged AFC North defenses won't help Richardson's cause.

❹ Mark Barron
S / TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Linebackers generally dominate the Defensive Rookie of the Year category, but playmaking safeties have done well as rookies, such as Seattle's Earl Thomas in '10. Barron should start right away and be productive.

❺ Morris Claiborne
CB / DALLAS COWBOYS

Dallas traded up to get the draft's best cover man, and, like Patrick Peterson a year ago, Claiborne could improve his résumé by returning kickoffs. He has the potential to be a ballhawk and should thrive in coordinator Rob Ryan's "D."

❻ Michael Floyd
WR / ARIZONA CARDINALS

By draft time, there were rumblings that some teams considered Floyd to be the draft's top receiver. Lining up opposite Larry Fitzgerald should give the physical Floyd an opportunity to put up quality numbers. He might not be on the same level as A.J. Green or Julio Jones, and a lot depends on the QB situation, but Floyd will get his chances in the desert.

❼ Justin Blackmon
WR / JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Blackmon will head into Jacksonville as the No. 1 target at wideout and arguably the best playmaker outside Maurice Jones-Drew. The struggles of the passing game, though, and questions about QB Blaine Gabbert loom as obstacles for Blackmon.

❽ Luke Kuechly
LB / CAROLINA PANTHERS

Kuechly was considered to be one of the safer picks of the entire draft, and nine of the past 12 PFW/PFWA Defensive Rookie of the Year winners have been linebackers. He is expected to rack up big tackle numbers, and his ability to transition quickly to the pro game should help his cause.

❾ Bruce Irvin
DE / SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

The surprise pick of the first round, Irvin has the pass-rush talent necessary to put up big numbers as a rookie. Although fans might have been shocked by Seattle's pick, Irvin's stock had been rising. Even if he plays in a situational role, Irvin has the potential to produce numbers similar to 49ers OLB Aldon Smith, the 2011 PFW/PFWA Defensive Rookie of the Year.

❿ Matt Kalil
OLT / MINNESOTA VIKINGS

OK, Kalil is a long shot to even be considered for Offensive Rookie of the Year honors, but the blind-side OLT position is considered one of the most important on the field. Kalil, the clear-cut top tackle in this year's draft class, is expected to step in from Day One to help protect Christian Ponder.

■ ■ ■

WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON:

QUINTON COPLES / DE / JETS
COBY FLEENER / TE / COLTS
MELVIN INGRAM / OLB / CHARGERS
A.J. JENKINS / WR / 49ERS
BRANDON WEEDEN / QB / BROWNS

— KEVIN FISHBAIN

On sale NOW

Fantasy Football Guide 2012

CHECK YOUR LOCAL NEWSSTANDS OR PFWSTORE.COM

FANTASY BREAKOUTS

PLAYERS ON THE VERGE OF STARDOM

SPORTPICS

What makes a breakout player? Opportunity does, and we use draft value to identify potential breakout players. We can use the auction format as a good example. If you can buy a player for $1 and he posts No. 2 fantasy numbers, regardless of what others say, he's a breakout player in our book. Some 2012 candidates:

Isaac Redman
RB / PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Up against the salary cap, the Steelers aren't expected to bring in any veteran help to replace Rashard Mendenhall, who could start the season on the PUP list after suffering an ACL injury in Week 17 last season. In that game, Redman — the short-yardage specialist — rushed for 19-92-1 and caught 3-18-0, showing he can be an every-down back.

Toby Gerhart
RB / MINNESOTA VIKINGS

It can take 9-12 months to heal from a torn ACL, but Adrian Peterson also tore his MCL and suffered meniscus damage in Week 16. Even if Peterson does make it back by the start of the season, chances are he won't be 100 percent. Gerhart posted 85-413-1 rushing and 18-129-3 on 21 targets in the final six games of 2011 — a per-game average of 17.7 utilizations for 90.3 yards from scrimmage.

Eric Decker
WR / DENVER BRONCOS

Decker has been working out with new QB Peyton Manning, building chemistry and timing. Talking him up, Manning views Decker as the "veteran" of the group. The team plans on using him in various ways — not just in the slot. Plus, Decker is entering his third NFL season — a time when wide receivers often break out.

Torrey Smith
WR / BALTIMORE RAVENS

Anquan Boldin's receptions and targets have dropped the past three seasons, and he will turn 32 in October. He caught 57-887-3 on 106 targets in 2011. In 30 games with the Ravens the past two seasons, he has averaged four catches for 57.5 yards and 0.3 TDs. Smith, on the other hand, is an explosive playmaker who had 50-841-7 on 96 targets last season. He had TDs of 74 and 36 yards, and eight games with receptions totaling 25 or more yards, despite playing with a sports hernia.

Robert Meachem
WR / SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Meachem averaged 63.3 targets the past three seasons with the Saints. As the potential No. 1 wide receiver in San Diego, his value is set to increase. QB Philip Rivers targeted the top WR position 100.3 times the past four seasons. That increase in targets as a starter, combined with Meachem's big-play ability — he averaged a TD every 6.7 receptions in '11 — makes him a valuable pick. His biggest challenge will be learning the offense.

Jacob Tamme
TE / DENVER BRONCOS

After Dallas Clark went down in 2010, between Weeks 8-17, Tamme posted 67-631-4 on 93 targets — a per-game average of 6.7 receptions for 63.1 yards and 0.4 TDs on 9.3 targets. That included a Week Nine performance in 2010 where he caught 11-108-1 on 17 targets. History shows QB Peyton Manning will lean on him to move the chains.

Lance Kendricks
TE / ST. LOUIS RAMS

Kendricks has great body control and can line up anywhere on the field, but he has been susceptible to drops. New head coach Jeff Fisher and offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer have a history of using pass-catching tight ends like Bo Scaife and Dustin Keller. With young, inexperienced players at wide receiver, Kendricks will have opportunities to excel.

Martellus Bennett
TE / NEW YORK GIANTS

The Giants do not use the tight end as a primary offensive threat, but Bennett is the best tight end they have had in years. Signing a one-year contract means he's playing for a big payday, but with his best season having come as a rookie — 20-283-4 on 27 targets — there are questions. At 6-6, 270 pounds, he's a big target with soft hands and an ability to get downfield.

Dan Bailey
PK / DALLAS COWBOYS

The second-year player had ice in his veins as a rookie, nailing four game-winning kicks and 26 consecutive field goals. Accurate and consistent, he also had four field-goal opportunities from 50-plus yards, making two of them.

Detroit Lions
TEAM DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS

Based on various scoring rules, it's tough to predict how a defense will do. However, last season the Lions were in the top 10 in sacks, interceptions, fumble recoveries and defensive TDs, and they return 21-of-22 starters. The secondary has been a weakness, meaning greater interception potential if it improves.

— WILLIAM DEL PILAR

PICK OUR APP FOR ALL YOUR PICKS

Get handicapping insights and picks from the experts at PFW with our Pro Football Picks Insider mobile app

- Weekly picks, including best bets.
- Confidence pool picks.
- NFL news and rumors.
- Over/under recommendations.
- Point-spread analysis.
- Historical trends.

Search your app store for "Pro Football Weekly"

Pro Football Weekly

Available for iPhone, iPad, Android, Blackberry, PlayBook and Windows Phone 7

Q&A WITH
Atlanta Falcons QB Matt Ryan

There was plenty to keep Falcons QB Matt Ryan busy this offseason. Whether it was starting a Twitter account (@M_Ryan02); caddying for his friend, pro golfer Stewart Cink, at the Masters; or getting to know Atlanta's new offensive coordinator, Dirk Koetter, Ryan took advantage of the time off and is looking to get his first taste of playoff success heading into his fifth season. PFW caught up with Ryan — who made getting into better physical shape a priority in the offseason — to get his take on the Falcons' sense of urgency, where the Saints stand after "Bountygate" and whether he's cool with the nickname "Matty Ice."

PFW: ***How was it caddying for Stewart Cink at the Masters? Do you get to keep the white overalls?***

RYAN: You don't. You don't get to keep the white bib. It was an unbelievable experience. Stewart's a great guy. I've gotten to know him over the last couple years. He offered the invitation to come over and do that for him. It was something that I just couldn't turn down. It was a lot of fun. I'm a huge fan of Augusta National and the Masters tournament, so it was really one of the highlights of my offseason.

• • •

PFW: ***Are we going to be talking about Matt Ryan as a pro golfer down the line?***

RYAN: I think it's out of my cards, playing that game well. Those guys are so good at what they do. They're so talented. It's just fun for me to play as a hobby. As a professional athlete, I always think it's incredibly impressive to see other people perform at the highest level of their sport. I just pick their brains about different things and try to apply it to our sport.

• • •

PFW: ***Tony Gonzalez has said this very well could be his last season. Does that play into the urgency to win in 2012?***

RYAN: I've heard that from him for the last four years, so ... He keeps himself in such good shape and has had such productive years since he's been here in Atlanta. He's such a big part of what we do. I'm not sure if it will be his last year or not. Certainly, we'd like to send him out, if it is his last year, in the right fashion. But with that said, I think everybody's sense of urgency is up. Guys are focused and motivated and really have the mindset of just taking care of our business week-to-week. That starts with getting off to a good start against Kansas City in Week One.

• • •

PFW: ***Is the sense of urgency to win any different than it was a year ago?***

RYAN: Every season is different. Last year, during the offseason we had the lockout. We did a good job of having people in town and working together, but it was just a different situation. This year, we've had unbelievable turnouts here at our optional stuff. Early on, we've had about 95 percent of our team in every morning and working together. Whether it's old-school or not, I think those things pay off. I think when guys put in the hard work together and spend time on the field and talk in the meeting rooms, that stuff pays off. I think everybody needs to step their level up a little bit. We need to each be a little bit better. If we all do that, I think collectively we'll be a lot better. That's kind of the focus that I think everybody has taken in our first two weeks.

• • •

PFW: ***Do you feel like you can give a little more input and have a better sense of what you would like the offense to be than you did in past years?***

RYAN: I think so. Dirk's (Falcons offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter) obviously been very receptive, coming in here and asking my opinion about things, and I appreciate that. Yeah, I've kind of voiced some of the things I like and dislike and what I feel some of my strengths and weaknesses are. I think he's been open to that, but I also like the fact that he is a strong-opinioned person and has a good perspective on offensive football and has his own ideas. I think there are a lot of things I can learn from him in that respect. I think that's a good mesh. I think that's the way that quarterback-offensive coordinator relationships should be.

• • •

PFW: ***You said earlier this offseason that you wanted to get stronger and bulk up a little this offseason. Do you have to do that to get the ball downfield the way you want to?***

RYAN: No, not necessarily, although I think that'll help. I think getting stronger is going to help me in a lot of different areas. I think you can be a little bit more durable in the pocket. That's one of the areas I want to improve. I think also, just for wear and tear during the season. I think I need to improve physically so that as the season progresses, I'm as strong as I can possibly be and in as good physical condition as I can possibly be when November, December and January roll around. Ultimately, it's very important to be playing your best football in (those months). Improving my strength, improving my overall conditioning, getting into better shape — I've been critical

of myself on how I need to improve, and I think that's one of the ways I can do it. So that's been a big emphasis for me, but it's not specifically about trying to throw it harder and do those things.

• • •

PFW: ***Do you think the Saints are down right now and the door is open in the NFC South after the "bounty scandal" punishment?***

RYAN: That's completely off our radar. We always view ourselves as being capable of winning our division. That's the mindset that you always have to have. For us, it's business as usual. We have to have the same approach to every season, regardless of what's going on with other organizations, so it's not something that we really worry about.

• • •

PFW: ***With Sean Payton suspended for the season, how hard would it be to go through a full season without Mike Smith?***

RYAN: I think it's difficult anytime you don't have any of your coaches. I think it would be difficult to not have your head coach, but with that said, in their case specifically, they still have Drew Brees and a bunch of really good players that are going to be on that field. I think they'll still be a very good football team.

• • •

PFW: ***What advice would you give Andrew Luck as he enters the league?***

RYAN: It's nothing groundbreaking. Probably the biggest thing is keep your head down and work hard. Don't worry about what's being said about you or other people's expectations. You can't worry about that stuff. The only thing you can focus on at that point is learning the playbook, trying to improve daily and just keeping a mindset that, regardless of what the outcome or the situation is week-to-week, you just need to keep working hard. I think if you do that, you will improve week-to-week and get better as the season progresses. Ultimately, I think he'll do a great job.

• • •

PFW: ***Your nickname is "Matty Ice." Do you like it?***

RYAN: It's a good nickname. I guess it's kind of followed me for a long time. I'm not tired of it. I think our fans kind of enjoy that. On the day-to-day, it's not something that everybody calls me in the facility, so it's not something that I hear a lot in real life. I think it's a cool nickname, and I think our fans enjoy that.

— DAN PARR

PFW ARCHIVES

JOHNNY UNITAS

NFList

MANNING IS THE LATEST ALL-TIME GREAT PASSER TO SWITCH TEAMS AT THE END OF HIS CAREER

Peyton Manning — a Bronco? It still seems weird that No. 18 would put on a helmet other than a white one with a blue horseshoe on it, but that is what the 2012 season will bring. The future Hall of Fame quarterback was released by the Colts on March 7 after missing all of the 2011 season while recovering from four neck surgeries. On March 19, he signed with the Broncos and will be the team's starter.

Manning isn't the only legendary QB to switch teams late in his career. He follows in the footsteps of four other all-time greats who left the club they spent many seasons with to finish their time in the league in unfamiliar territory.

1 JOHNNY UNITAS

TO SAN DIEGO CHARGERS / 1973

Unitas spent 17 seasons in Baltimore, leading the Colts to a pair of NFL championships and a victory in Super Bowl V. By '73, the Colts were ready to move on, but "Johnny U" wasn't ready to hang up his black high-top cleats quite yet. He was traded to the Chargers, where he threw three TD passes and seven interceptions in five games and mentored future Hall of Famer Dan Fouts before retiring after one season there.

2 JOE NAMATH

TO LOS ANGELES RAMS / 1977

It made sense that "Broadway Joe" would finish his career in Hollywood. He had expressed a desire to play for the Rams, and the Jets did not pick up the option on his contract after the 1976 season. Namath left New York after 12 seasons, five Pro Bowls and one Super Bowl title. His injuries had mounted, and Namath had a 4-17 record in his last two seasons with the Jets. In his only season in Los Angeles, Namath started four games in '77 and threw three TD passes and five picks. He retired following the season.

3 JOE MONTANA

TO KANSAS CITY CHIEFS / 1993

With Steve Young fully entrenched as the 49ers' starter, Montana was dealt from San Francisco to the Chiefs in April 1993 after missing nearly two full seasons because of an elbow injury. The three-time Super Bowl MVP played two seasons in Kansas City, starting 25 games and helping the Chiefs to a pair of playoff appearances, including an AFC title-game loss to Buffalo in '93. He never was able to reach the Super Bowl again, however, while Young led the Niners to a championship in the '94 season, Montana's last NFL season.

4 BRETT FAVRE

TO NEW YORK JETS / 2008

After 16 seasons in Green Bay, during which time he won a Super Bowl and was league MVP three times, Favre retired following the 2007 season. However, when he decided to unretire prior to the '08 season, the Packers, who had already committed to Aaron Rodgers, traded Favre to the Jets. He went 9-7 in his one season in New York, and retired again. He then came back to play with the Vikings, and turned back the clock in 2009 by producing one of his finest statistical seasons. He led the Vikes to the NFC title game but lost to the Saints in overtime. He suffered through an injury-hampered '10 season before retiring for good.

— KEVIN FISHBAIN & ELI KABERON

AUDIBLES:
INSIDER SAYS PEYTON'S TIME RUNNING SHORT

WHAT NFL EXECUTIVES, EVALUATORS AND COACHES AROUND THE LEAGUE ARE SAYING

The following quotes were collected from NFL GMs, coaches, executives and evaluators around the league, speaking on the condition of anonymity, about hot-button issues, bringing fresh perspectives from the NFL's most savvy football minds. "Audibles" can be found regularly in print and in video at ProFootballWeekly.com.

PEYTON MANNING

• • •

"**Peyton Manning** kept saying that he wanted to go to the best team and wanted to win championships, but his window is going to be very short. He was looking at San Francisco, Denver and Tennessee, and I think he chose the worst team (of the three). He's going to have to play in altitude that he never played in before. He is 36. I still don't know if it was the best place for him. I think the decision ultimately came down to not wanting to play against his brother (in the NFC) and the rapport he struck with (Broncos executive VP of football operations **John**) **Elway**."

• • •

"(Panthers owner) **Jerry Richardson** did a really good job laying (the **Cam Newton** decision) out. The kid is immature, but they had a plan for him. 'Chud' (offensive coordinator **Rob Chudzinski**) and (QB coach **Mike**) **Shula** are really good coaches. Let's not take anything away from the kid — he is a rare talent. They were not convinced on tape he had all that talent. (Cam) convinced them at the second pro day he could make all the throws. They were not convinced he could make all the reads, but if you kept it simple enough for him and had a plan, it could work. They obviously hit it big."

• • •

"(Chargers 18th overall pick) **Melvin Ingram** is a dilemma guy. We talked about him for over an hour in our (draft) room. I would not have *touched* him. He's too short, and I don't think he did jack in college. He is not instinctive. He doesn't pursue or have rush

SPORTPICS

moves. I thought I was watching **Vernon Gholston** again. He was off our board. ... Now, I have talked to other (evaluators) around the league, and they were amazed with him and did not think his lack of length mattered. I know some teams were completely enamored with him. I was not one of them. There was a reason he slid (in the draft)."

• • •

"(Former Colts GM **Bill**) **Polian** will never go back to another team unless he is running the whole thing. Why? Because he found freedom in that arena. I have a new perspective on it. You can weigh freedoms. I slept on a cot for seven years in the office. Football is an addictive profession. It's like a drug. Just remember this conversation. You get so caught up in the game that you lose touch with reality. ... He worked his way to the top, he knows what he can do and I don't think he will settle for anything less."

• • •

"Every year, teams have a whole new set of needs. Old guys are getting worse and the young guys are getting better. You may have 15-20 guys on your team who are getting paid more but can't help you the same way. Those are the details that get lost on a lot of teams. Twelve months ago, you could be thought about as one of the smartest guys in the NFL. It could change overnight if you don't keep making good decisions."

• • •

"Kansas City looks like Cleveland of five years ago. They got the band back together — all that is missing is (former Browns GM) **Phil Savage**."

• • •

"(Jaguars GM) **Gene Smith** may not have his job in a year if **Blaine Gabbert** does not make big improvement. ... I

worry about Gabbert. I'm not sure how much he loves the game of football. That's just the vibe I get from the kid."

• • •

"I know how things work in New Orleans. You want to know the way (owner **Tom**) **Benson** is looking at it. (**Sean Payton**'s suspension) is a money-winning proposition for the owner. He is going to look at the $7 million they are not paying the head coach and put $2 million in the kitty and tell (GM) **Mickey** (**Loomis**) to use the rest to get (**Drew**) **Brees** locked up. Whatever he saves under that $5 million will go towards the support staff or bonus structure. He'll tell them to go make some money. It's like **Mike Brown** when we were in Cincinnati. That's when we knew you couldn't win there. We tried to be good businessmen and save him money and figured he would roll it over and give it back to us in the budget the next year like any business. He didn't, and someone asked him what happened to the $3 million that we saved. In the famous words of Mike Brown, he said, 'The shareholders thank you.' Who was the biggest shareholder? HE was! I know not everyone sees it this way, but it's a business."

• • •

"(Tampa Bay OLT) **Donald Penn** was playing over his head at one time. There was one year where he made **Jared Allen**

SPORTPICS

look like a Girl Scout. I don't think he has sustained that level of play, but I like his toughness. He wears you out."

• • •

"More draft mistakes are doctor-driven than anyone will ever admit. Look at (former Chargers OLT) **Marcus McNeill**. Do you know how many boards he was off? How many Pro Bowls did he go to? Our doctors had **Patrick Willis** off our board for his foot. He fit any scheme, but he would have been a beast in ours."

• • •

"(Browns OLT) **Joe Thomas** is one of the most efficient tackles in the game. He is not overly physical, but when you get done watching his tape, you wonder, 'How did he just do everything he did?' He is extremely efficient. He's like (former Seahawks OLT) **Walter Jones**. (Jones) never beat the hell out of anyone, but at the end of his day, his guy was always blocked. The good offensive linemen make things look easy. The good ones are very efficient in their movement, do a great job studying their opponent and take away what he does well, regardless of whether it is a power or speed guy."

• • •

"Houston is setting up to dominate the division. I think they'll make a strong run. The problems were always on defense. (Defensive coordinator) **Wade Phillips** fixed a lot of problems. That's what **Gary Kubiak** needed — a defensive head coach who could run it all on his own. That's what put New Orleans over the top. It wasn't until **Sean Payton** found someone to handle it all that they were able to take the next step."

• • •

"Not a lot of people look at it this way, but San Diego has more money invested in its offense than any team in the league. Pittsburgh has more invested in defensive players (than anyone), and Oakland has more invested in special teams. ... That was an undertaking for (new Raiders GM **Reggie McKenzie**). I'm not sure everyone realizes the type of mess he inherited, but I like how quickly he is moving to clean it up."

• • •

"NFL contracts are being written now in a way that teams can get out of them completely unscathed the next year. **Michael Vick**'s deal was a three-year deal, but it's really two. This is a big year for Vick. They only owe him $3 million after this year. They can get out of it easily. ... If I were **Andy Reid**, I would have signed **Matt Flynn**. Vick tanked it last season. Watch the back half of the year. It was bad."

• • •

"You need three corners on the field with how much teams are passing the ball. The best secondaries are ones with three corners on the field. The problem the Packers present and a lot of teams don't realize — the college game is completely different than the NFL. The strategy in college is not even in the NFL, and it's getting further and further away. The Packers don't signal — you don't know who is going to be on the field. So how do you counter that? You have to be prepared to handle their best package."

• • •

"(Dolphins head coach **Joe**) **Philbin** is an extremely nice man, but I have not heard anyone say he was a strong head-coaching candidate before he got the job. Just watching him at the (NFL Scouting) Combine — he does not come across as a guy that has any energy or schtick to relate to players. (GM **Jeff**) **Ireland** brings no star power to you. What Ireland should have done — he needed to get a guy like (**Jon**) **Gruden** and live with the fact that life was not going to be easy. That is just me thinking out loud. You can't be afraid to deal with the personality of a good head coach. My guy is no prize to work with, day in and day out, but he is a damn good football coach. **Bill Parcells** was a pain in the ass. **Bill Walsh** was a pain in the ass. (**Bill**)

SPORTPICS

Belichick has to be his own boss. A GM couldn't handle him. That is the reason they are the way they are. They look at building a team a helluva lot differently than we do."

• • •

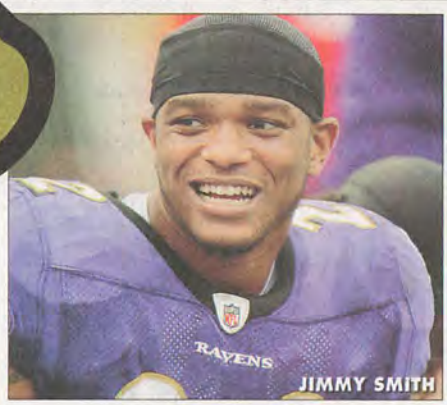
"(Jets OL coach) **Tony Sparano** was one of the best offensive line coaches in the NFL when he was in Dallas. Everyone knows him. (Former Jets OL coach **Bill**) **Callahan** could coach, but he didn't understand personnel. Sparano will be a huge upgrade (in New York). The running game will open up this year, especially with (**Tim**) **Tebow**. Just watch."

• • •

"I am a big fan of (new Rams GM) **Les** (**Snead**). I just think he is a people person. He's a consensus builder; he's smart; he knows football. He will identify players and develop a consensus among the staff. I think (Rams executive VP of football operations/COO) **Kevin Demoff** did a good job putting the right people in place."

X-FAC

EVERY TEAM HAS A NOT-SO-OBVIOUS PLAYER



JIMMY SMITH

DONALD JONES

By
DAN ARKUSH
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Sorry, Simon Cowell.

The 32 pro football figures featured in the following five pages might be lacking a bit in the kind of unadulterated star power Cowell and his co-hosts attempt to unearth on the flashy reality television show that shares the same name as this article.

These gentlemen are more what you'd call key supporting actors, filling extremely important but oftentimes subtle roles for their teams — for better or worse.

Predictable they aren't.

They all have issues, in some cases health-related, in other cases performance-related, and in still other cases character-related.

Yet, after all is said and done, they all figure to be key factors in the equations reflected in their teams' win-loss records in 2012.

They aren't the first players you're likely to think of when their teams are mentioned by any means.

But they are noteworthy players whose particular success or failure this coming season could either seal a playoff berth or just as easily pave the way to a disappointing season.

In a sport specializing in X's and O's, PFW editors present a key X-factor on each team.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

X-FACTOR: Rob Housler

ANALYSIS: As a rookie tight end, Housler was often wide-open but ignored, before a groin injury took a toll. Elite WR Larry Fitzgerald couldn't hide his excitement over the first-round selection of good buddy Michael Floyd, who was immediately envisioned in the desert as a dependable, big-play complement in the mold of Anquan Boldin. However, if the speedy, sure-handed Housler can stay healthy, and Kevin Kolb can do a better job of communicating with him, Housler could fill that role.

ATLANTA FALCONS

X-FACTOR: Sam Baker

ANALYSIS: The Falcons are opening the starting spots on the offensive line to competition this offseason, but, despite his struggles, they are confident Baker can bounce back from a rough year and be the one to protect QB Matt Ryan's blind side at left tackle. Back surgery sent Baker's 2011 season off course, and he has much to prove heading into his contract year. Can he stay healthy and show he's worthy of a new investment? This key spot on the offensive line is a major question mark.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

X-FACTOR: Jimmy Smith

ANALYSIS: Smith, the Ravens' 2011 first-round pick, didn't start as a rookie, and he's not a lock to start this season, either. Yet, if he continues to make strides, he could have a material impact on the Ravens' defense. The team got career-best seasons from CBs Lardarius Webb and Cary Williams in '11; if Smith makes a similar leap this season, the Ravens will have one of the game's top trios at the position. In today's NFL, the more capable corners you have, the better.

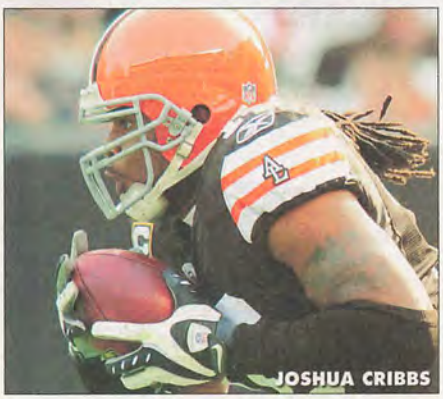
BUFFALO BILLS

X-FACTOR: Donald Jones

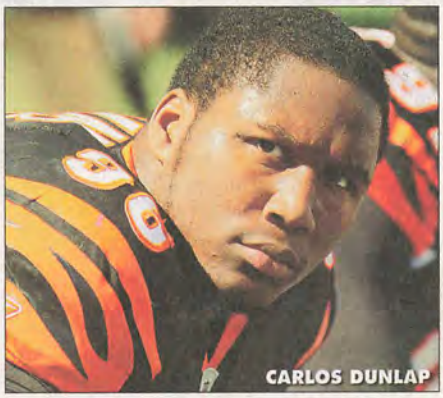
ANALYSIS: The Bills had high hopes for Jones last season that he would emerge as a No. 2 wide receiver. An ankle injury forced him to miss eight games, and inconsistent hands kept him from being a playmaker when he was on the field. Jones, who had 23 catches for 231 yards, still has the confidence of the club. Buffalo is looking for a wide-out to step up and be another weapon, and if Jones can stay healthy and take advantage of his speed, it will improve the offense.

TORS

OR COACH WHO COULD MAKE OR BREAK ITS 2012 CAMPAIGN


JOSHUA CRIBBS

SHEA McCLELLIN


CARLOS DUNLAP

CAROLINA PANTHERS

X-FACTOR: Jon Beason

ANALYSIS: Carolina's defense never recovered after Beason, the starting middle linebacker, went down with a torn Achilles tendon in Week One last season. Beason, a three-time Pro Bowler, is looking to recapture his previous form, and the Panthers are counting on his healthy return to help them go from an exciting team to a playoff-caliber one. Carolina can't bank on LB Thomas Davis, coming off three ACL tears, staying healthy, and Beason has to be an answer to their woes.

CHICAGO BEARS

X-FACTOR: Shea McClellin

ANALYSIS: The Bears have lacked a quality, highly productive edge rusher to play opposite DE Julius Peppers, and they spent their first-round pick on McClellin this year with the hope that he can fill that void. He's going to face plenty of one-on-one matchups with Peppers drawing the offensive line's attention. If McClellin consistently takes advantage of those opportunities, Chicago's pass rush could be suffocating. The Bears need the Boise State product to make an instant impact.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

X-FACTOR: Carlos Dunlap

ANALYSIS: The 6-6, 289-pound defensive end has outstanding pass-rush ability, and he can dominate overmatched competition. Only 23, Dunlap could be a standout for years to come. That said, his durability is something of a concern, as he has missed four games in each of his first two seasons. The Bengals rotate their defensive linemen, which can reduce wear and tear, and a healthy Dunlap could do significant damage if he can stay on the field for 16 games. He has major upside.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

X-FACTOR: Joshua Cribbs

ANALYSIS: Cribbs' punt-return TD at Baltimore on Dec. 24, 2011, was his first return score in two years. He remains one of the NFL's more respected returners, and teams will surely work to limit his chances on kickoffs and punts, but the Browns need whatever big plays Cribbs can give them on special teams. He is capable of swinging games in the Browns' favor with his playmaking; recall his outstanding effort (200 all-purpose yards) in Cleveland's upset of rival Pittsburgh in 2009.

DALLAS COWBOYS

X-FACTOR: Brandon Carr

ANALYSIS: The Cowboys had their share of communication problems in the secondary and struggled to man-cover most of last season. Two solutions: sign CB Brandon Carr and draft Morris Claiborne. Now defensive coordinator Rob Ryan can run his pressure schemes and feel better about his players' chances. Claiborne could be great, but the pressure is squarely on Carr to deliver on his deal at more than $10 million per season. He has the toughness outside to redefine the makeup of this secondary.

DENVER BRONCOS

X-FACTOR: Jacob Tamme

ANALYSIS: Peyton Manning has always had a fondness for throwing to tight ends, and in Tamme, the new Broncos QB has a familiar face back from his days with the Colts. Tamme had a fantastic 2010 season for Indianapolis with 67 catches in 10 games. Assuming Manning returns to full health, expect the two to connect again often. On a team that has no clear-cut No. 1 target, Tamme could be asked to work the middle of the field, move the chains and be a playmaking force in the red zone.

DETROIT LIONS

X-FACTOR: Louis Delmas

ANALYSIS: Delmas has been a solid starter at free safety since entering the NFL in 2009, and his five-game absence a season ago with a knee injury highlighted his importance to the Lions' secondary. Detroit faltered against strong passing games without him. With the Lions' CB corps quite unproven, Detroit needs a healthy, playmaking Delmas for it to return to the postseason once again. Delmas has the talent to be a standout; if he is, the entire defense will benefit.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

X-FACTOR: Tramon Williams

ANALYSIS: For the Pack to make it back to the Super Bowl, it's a good bet they'll need a strong bounce-back season from Williams, who was off his game because of early shoulder problems last season. The cornerback was flat-out brilliant down the stretch the previous season, making perfectly timed big plays on a regular basis. With the Packers deciding to cut the cord with Pro Bowl FS Nick Collins, they need Williams, along with other defenders who also regressed last season, to fully regain his 2010 form.

HOUSTON TEXANS

X-FACTOR: James Casey

ANALYSIS: The departure of underrated TE Joel Dreessen to Denver left Houston with only injury-prone and primarily in-line blocker Garrett Graham behind Owen Daniels on the depth chart. Given Gary Kubiak's affinity for two-TE sets, keep an eye on the versatile Casey to earn a larger role in the passing game. Kubiak loves Casey, who possesses arguably the best hands on the team, because he can line up all over the field and poses major matchup problems with his speed and athleticism.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

X-FACTOR: Anthony Castonzo

ANALYSIS: An argument could be made that the immediate success of the new face of the franchise, QB Andrew Luck, hinges as much on Castonzo, the left tackle, as any other Colt. Indianapolis put together a patchwork line to protect its crown jewel this offseason, but Castonzo is without question the unit's most promising player. He had his share of struggles as a rookie, however, and will have to be less rigid and quickly learn to better handle speed in order to keep Luck's body and confidence intact.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

X-FACTOR: Marcedes Lewis

ANALYSIS: It's easy to point to WRs Justin Blackmon and Laurent Robinson as key figures in the development of QB Blaine Gabbert. But the importance of Lewis rebounding after his 2011 disappearing act can't be overlooked. Off-field distractons and lack of chemistry with his young QB contributed to Lewis' drop-off. Now, with a full offseason to develop a rapport with Gabbert, and being surrounded by much better weapons, Lewis must re-emerge as the total TE package he's paid to be.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

X-FACTOR: Rodney Hudson

ANALYSIS: A second-round pick in 2011, Hudson basically had a redshirt year as a rookie, starting in only one game. He will be the team's starting center this year, asked to man the middle of an offensive line that must improve after allowing 34 sacks a year ago. The unit as a whole must be better at run blocking. With terrific athleticism and strong hands, Hudson has the skill set to handle his new job well. However, there is always concern handing over such important responsibilities to a young player.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

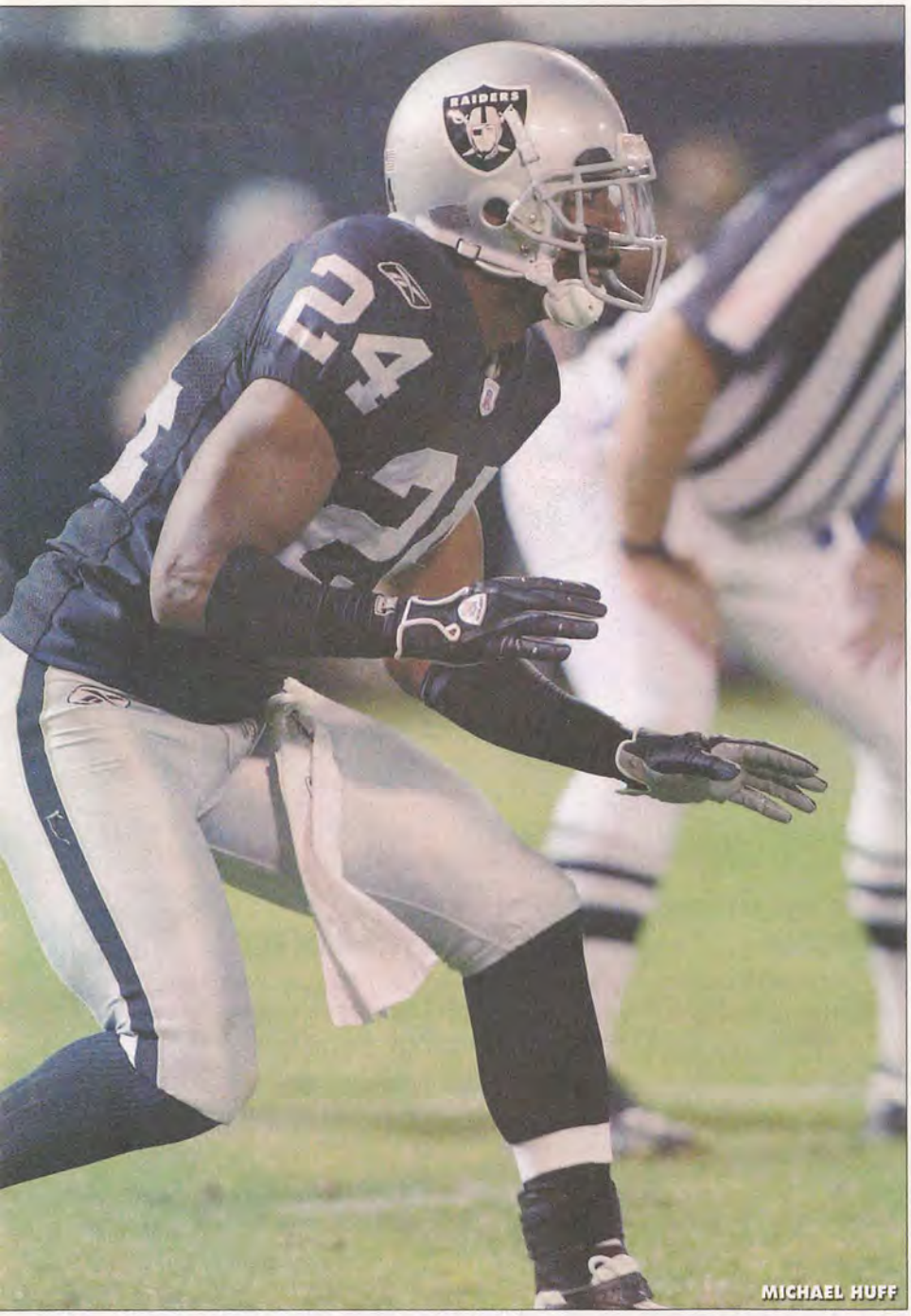
X-FACTOR: Charles Clay

ANALYSIS: New Dolphins head coach Joe Philbin already has raved about Clay's versatility. Last season, Clay had six 20-yard catches and three TDs. Philbin and Mike Sherman can get creative with Clay, who can line up at fullback or H-back. If Clay is able to thrive in Miami's West Coast offense, it will keep defenses honest and open things up for WRs Brian Hartline and Davone Bess. Miami is looking for someone besides Reggie Bush to be a playmaker on offense, and it could be Clay.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

X-FACTOR: Chris Cook

ANALYSIS: If you rewatch the Week Three game vs. the Lions, you'll see CB Cook and WR Calvin Johnson battling toe-to-toe. Johnson posted up Cook for a TD, but they played squarely thereafter. Cook's season was derailed by a domestic abuse charge, but now that Cook has been cleared, he could be ready to rise up. With long arms, Cook started to use his leverage in press coverage better. Against Johnson, Brandon Marshall, Greg Jennings and others, Cook will have his chances to shine.


MICHAEL HUFF

NEW YORK GIANTS

X-FACTOR: Martellus Bennett

ANALYSIS: With the TE position having been gutted in the Super Bowl, the Giants made a rare free-agent signing with Bennett to land a starter. Bennett will have to hold the fort while Jake Ballard and Travis Beckum face lengthy rehabs. In Dallas, Bennett was considered a talented bust who never fulfilled his potential. But with the Giants, who have helped revive some players' careers under Tom Coughlin, he'll have a chance to hit reset and fill a big void at a key blocking and receiving position.

NEW YORK JETS

X-FACTOR: Bart Scott

ANALYSIS: The inside linebacker hasn't missed a game since 2004, but his play tailed off in '11. He had his fewest tackles since '04 and left the field in nickel situations. That led to trade rumors and Scott venting frustration. The veteran is a vocal leader, and what he did bring to the "D" last year was sacks, 4½ of them. The Jets' defense had its struggles last year against the run and getting to the QB. Scott can talk the talk, but the team benefits greatly if he can get his game back to a high level.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

X-FACTOR: Michael Huff

ANALYSIS: Given the serious questions the Raiders have at cornerback, a big season from a former top-10 pick like Huff would be a huge boost for the team's defense. Playing free safety, Huff has shown throughout his career to have good ball skills and is one of Oakland's best pass defenders. He also has the size and instincts to come up in the box and stop the run. An ankle injury ended his 2011 season early. If the Raiders' "D" is going to take a step forward, Huff must be a difference maker.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

X-FACTOR: Patrick Chung

ANALYSIS: A potential breakout player heading into last season, Chung dealt with injuries (he played in eight games), and the drop-off in the back end was noticeable. He is the team's best playmaking safety and could be hitting his prime in his fourth season. The Patriots' defense is what has kept them from hoisting the Lombardi Trophy the past two seasons, and an improved secondary is key. Chung is a vocal leader, but he needs to stay healthy and become more of a difference maker.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

X-FACTOR: Sedrick Ellis

ANALYSIS: After a career-best six-sack performance in 2010, Ellis produced only half a sack last season and did a convincing disappearing act. We've seen flashes from Ellis, the seventh overall pick of the '08 draft, but he has yet to live up to expectations four seasons into his career. In his contract year, the defensive tackle could earn himself a big payday and provide the Saints' defense with the boost it needs from him if his play comes anywhere close to matching the hype that followed him out of USC.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

X-FACTOR: DeMeco Ryans

ANALYSIS: In Ryans, the Eagles not only addressed a sore spot at middle linebacker but also acquired a leader on a defense that sorely needed one. An instinctive tackling vacuum, Ryans should post big numbers in a scheme that will funnel a lot of ballcarriers his way when they use the wide-9 alignment. But he also might help rally a locker room that went wayward. The talent is there on this "D" — it finished in the top 10 in several categories — and Ryans can help be the glue for the entire unit.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

X-FACTOR: Isaac Redman

ANALYSIS: If RB Rashard Mendenhall isn't available for the start of the season after suffering a torn ACL on Jan. 1, Redman will be the Steelers' featured back. His play in the wild-card loss to Denver suggests he is up to the task. In defeat, Redman racked up 121 yards on just 17 carries. Redman (6-0, 230) is not as fast as Mendenhall, but he is powerful, and he has enough quicks and athleticism to be more than just a three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust grinder. He figures to be ready if called upon.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

X-FACTOR: Dave McGinnis

ANALYSIS: Jeff Fisher better hope the personable McGinnis is the right choice to be a solid right-hand man/sounding board as the assistant head coach of a coaching staff that has been thrown for a loop by the indefinite supsension of defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. With Williams out of the mix, McGinnis is likely being asked to take on a lot more responsibility than he might have bargained for, both on and off the field. If he stays true to form, he should be more than up to the task.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

X-FACTOR: Quentin Jammer

ANALYSIS: For much of the past decade, Jammer has been one of the NFL's better press corners, using his terrific ball skills to keep up with the game's top wideouts. At age 33, he has slowed down by a few steps, and there are questions as to how much longer he will be an impact player. He didn't record an interception last season, the first time since his rookie year of 2002 that had happened, and given the Chargers' lack of depth at corner, a bounce-back season from Jammer is needed.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

X-FACTOR: Mario Manningham

ANALYSIS: As he proved during the game-winning drive in Super Bowl XLVI, after having been overshadowed all season by fellow Giants WRs Hakeem Nicks and Victor Cruz, the 49ers' newly acquired Manningham is a big-time gamer who comes through consistently when needed most. With the Niners' WR corps becoming a nonfactor in last season's playoffs, that particular quality could turn out to be a key to the Niners following in the Giants' Super Bowl footsteps.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

X-FACTOR: Leon Washington

ANALYSIS: For the Seahawks to seriously challenge the Niners in the NFC West, they need a major upgrade from a normally very reliable special-teams unit that had its share of problems in 2011. They especially need Washington to re-establish himself as one of the league's more dangerous return threats — after he failed to return any kicks for scores last season — and more often provide the kind of favorable field position that the Niners so consistently took advantage of last season.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

X-FACTOR: Gerald McCoy

ANALYSIS: Billed as the centerpiece the Bucs would build their defense around when he was drafted third overall in 2010, McCoy has missed 13 games in his two seasons after suffering biceps tears in back-to-back years. Tampa Bay missed him badly after he went down with the injury in Week Nine last season and needs him on the field serving as a highly disruptive three-technique. McCoy is a rare talent, and spending time answering questions about his durability doesn't do the Bucs any good.

TENNESSEE TITANS

X-FACTOR: Alterraun Verner

ANALYSIS: One of the bigger problems for the Titans' "D" last season was a lack of impact plays. Tennessee struggled to create pressure, managed just 11 interceptions and lost its best cornerback and defensive linchpin, Cortland Finnegan, in free agency. Enter Verner, an instinctive ballhawk who can play outside, as well as move inside in the nickel. The Titans are in search of new leadership and a tone setter on "D," and Verner filling that bill would provide a huge lift.

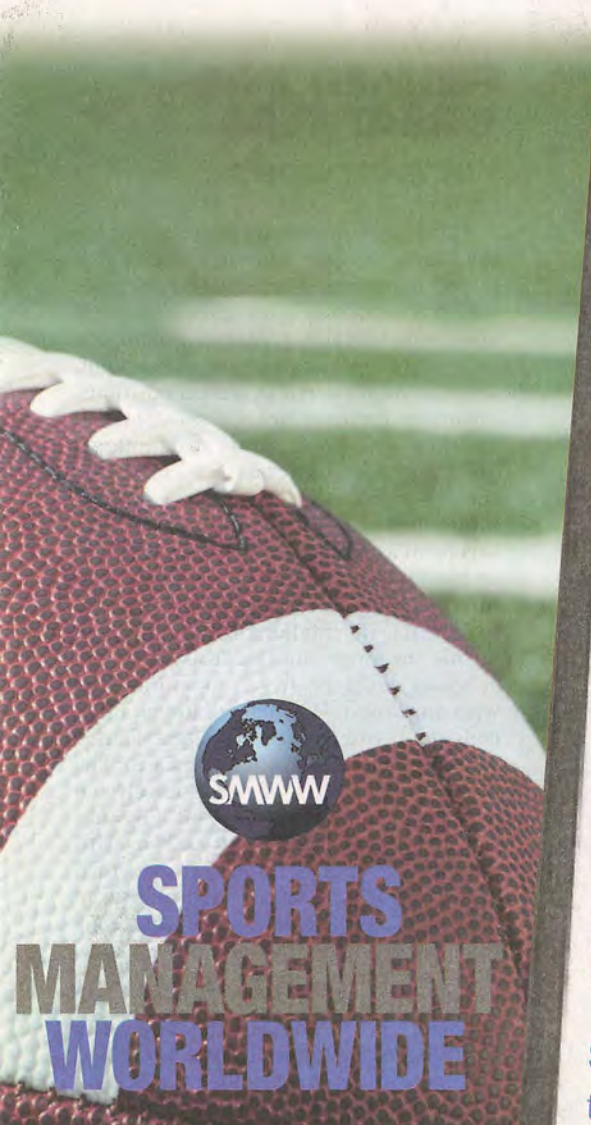
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

X-FACTOR: Jarvis Jenkins

ANALYSIS: It was fairly obvious to most observers that by the end of last training camp, 2011 second-round DE Jarvis Jenkins was going to be the Redskins' best player up front. That was until he suffered a torn ACL in the third preseason game and lost his entire rookie season. Don't underestimate this defensive line — which was the team's strength last year and could be again — with a healthy Jenkins. OLBs Brian Orakpo and Ryan Kerrigan make plays, but this front could dominate at times.

DREAMING of a CAREER in FOOTBALL?

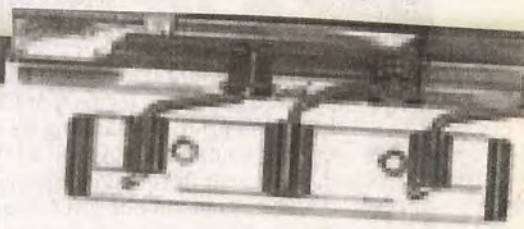
Attend our Football Career Conference during the NFL Combine, Feb. 22-23, 2013



SMWW

SPORTS MANAGEMENT WORLDWIDE

For more information and to register online go to SMWW.com or call 503-445-7105



Start or Advance Your Career in:

- Scouting
- Sports Agent
- Broadcasting
- Marketing
- Coaching
- Digital Video Editing
- Player Personnel
- Game Operations
- Management
- Front Office

8 week online training courses facilitated by NFL experts including former NFL Scout Russ Lande, NFL Legend and former NFL Executive John Wooten, Jacksonville Jaguars Video Coordinator Mike Stoeber, Indianapolis Colts VP Greg Hylton, and NFL Agent Lynn Lashbrook. Learn the skills and strategies to advance to the front of the hiring line in the NFL & CFL. Courses vary but include specific training with cutting-edge software and digital video editing including XOS Thunder, the #1 used software by the NFL & EA Sports.

SMWW has alumni working at many NFL teams. Where do you want to work? Let SMWW help you achieve your dream of working in the NFL or CFL. You could be the next SMWW Success Story.

Graduate and undergraduate credit available. Transfer credit to your university or use SMWW courses and attain an accelerated Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate with Concordia University Chicago.

IMPROVING

MANY TEAMS' BEST CHANCE OF TAKING BIG STEPS FORWARD MIGHT NOT BE WITH FLASHY FREE-AGENT MOVES — BUT FROM WHAT THEY ALREADY HAVE ON THE ROSTER

By
ERIC EDHOLM
SENIOR EDITOR

Free agency is fun. It generates buzz. It lures the promise of instant upgrade (just add water!) to teams that likely faced serious personnel deficiencies the season prior. Considering it's a league where bottom dwellers one year can land in the Super Bowl the next, NFL parity makes the idea of improvement through free agency all the more alluring.

And let's not kid ourselves: Some teams have seismically altered the course with significant free-agent additions. Reggie White to the Packers. Deion Sanders, to first the 49ers and then the Cowboys. Curtis Martin to the Jets, hurting the division-rival Patriots and giving Gang Green a future Hall of Famer.

More recently, Drew Brees in 2006 changed the fates of two franchises significantly — for the Saints, who eventually won a Super Bowl with him on board, and for the Dolphins, who failed to sign him (going instead with Daunte Culpepper) and have found themselves mired in poor QB play ever since.

But many successful free-agent moves have either been of the low-risk, high-reward variety (Rich Gannon, Jake Delhomme, Mike Vrabel) or for players who were hurt by injury, age or reputation (Kurt Warner, Michael Vick, Darren Sharper).

Charles Woodson and John Lynch were the missing secondary pieces the Packers and Broncos needed, respectively, and WR Plaxico Burress helped the Giants win a title his first season after signing as a free agent. But Burress is just as stained for his gun incident and subsequent jail sentence and fall from grace.

Most often, though, teams are built through the draft and improve from within. It says something that five of the most measured and smart teams in terms of free-agent activity — the Packers, Steelers, Giants, Colts and Patriots — have made up eight of the past nine NFL champions.

The Giants know that good coaching and player development are crucial. It's why they have stuck behind Tom Coughlin — known as a great teacher — even when public pressure mounted to fire him, more than once. GM Jerry Reese's steady-as-she-goes approach has won him admirers leaguewide, and his approach to adding players in the offseason is stark. The Giants signed no big-name free agents prior to last season's title and went without major contributions from their top four draft picks. As owner John Mara is fond of saying, championships are not won in March.

"We never try to reach in the draft," Reese said. "We do try to fill holes in free agency when we get an opportunity to do that, but we never say let's get a certain position in the draft. We just try to pick the best player."

Coaching additions can help. Improved health is always a bonus. Position switches or scheme changes sometimes can be major benefits.

The Bills and Buccaneers were two of the more active teams in free agency this offseason, and there is no question they have more talent. With DEs Mario Williams and Mark Anderson, the Bills have a legit pass rush now. But if they improve dramatically, we also should consider what effect having their two best linemen (DT Kyle Williams and C Eric Wood) and best offensive playmaker (RB Fred Jackson) back from injury had. Likewise, the Bucs added WR Vincent Jackson and OG Carl Nicks, but their return to contention might have as much to do with getting QB Josh Freeman, coming off a nightmare season, back on track as anything else.

The point is that free agency by itself often falls short of being the instant cure-all when it comes to improvement. Here are nine teams — three in each of three tiers — that have the opportunity and potential to improve this season without the benefit of many major free-agent additions.

PRIMED FOR GREATNESS

DETROIT LIONS
(2011 RECORD: 10-6)

There are now massive expectations for the Lions, who are coming off their first playoff appearance since 1999. The three-year process of overhauling the roster and gearing up for a title-contending team, one move at a time, has arrived at a flashpoint. There is young talent at several positions, including cornerstones Calvin Johnson, Matthew Stafford and Ndamukong Suh, and 24-of-25 starters (including specialists) are returning. That's bad news for the rest of the NFC, which has to view this team as a serious contender. It would be hard to imagine Johnson and Stafford improving their video-game statistics from 2011, but Stafford could cut down on his turnovers and inconsistency, and Johnson could be freed up more often with improved WR talent and a more consistent run game. DT Nick Fairley was plagued by foot injuries as a rookie, and DE Cliff Avril (if he doesn't receive an extension) could be headed into another contract season, looking to cash in with another big season. The healthy return of RB Mikel Leshoure would help keep the defense off the field more (the Lions ranked 18th in time of possession). But head coach Jim Schwartz's biggest improvement from within could come with instilling more discipline. This feisty club allowed its emotions to boil over and its concentration to vacillate as it gave up the fourth-most first downs by penalty and ranked 23rd in penalty-yardage differential. Those hidden yards — along with some slight improvement on special-teams field position — could end up being the difference between a good team and a great team capable of winning it all. Don't forget how young this roster was last season, and now most of the Lions'

FROM WITHIN

CALVIN JOHNSON AND MATTHEW STAFFORD

key players are entering their third, fourth and fifth seasons.

CHICAGO BEARS

(2011 RECORD: 8-8)

In Week 11, as the Bears were finishing off the Chargers, many around the league thought the biggest threat to the then-undefeated Packers might have been residing in Chicago. The Bears were rolling at 7-3, winners of 6-of-7 games (scoring 30-plus points in five of those games), and appeared like a dangerous, playoff-caliber team that only a season before had hosted the NFC title game. And the Bears' 37-13 waxing of the Lions (who ended up making the playoffs as a wild card) gives you an idea of how dominant they could be. But in the win over the Chargers, QB Jay Cutler — who was playing some of the best ball of his career — suffered a broken thumb, sending the applecart off course, and RB Matt Forté's knee injury two games later pushed the Bears right off the cliff altogether. No two injuries crippled a team more down the stretch. With both healthy, the Bears could pick up where they left off, and the trade for WR Brandon Marshall certainly can't hurt. He and Cutler were a tremendous pair together in Denver, so the chemistry already is there in some form. Some believe that new offensive coordinator Mike Tice's streamlined approach could offer a hidden offensive benefit following some stubborn tendencies from the departed Mike Martz. Tice intends to give Cutler more six- and seven-man protections, which should help keep him from getting eaten up by opponents' rushers. The defense, while aged in spots, appears to have one last great gasp left. The top two draft picks from 2012, OT Gabe Carimi and DT Stephen Paea, were beset by injuries all last season and could provide a big boost as bonus "rookies."

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

(2011 RECORD: 8-8)

We all know how the "Dream Team" experiment went: not at all according to plan. There were several reasons for this. Michael Vick once again got hurt. The offensive line, which underwent a major switch in blocking philosophies, was a mess at first. The defense, under the guidance of first-time coordinator Juan Castillo, had no time to absorb the system. All the talent the team brought in during the post-lockout rush either fit poorly or

wasn't able to compensate for the holes in the roster around them. But a funny thing happened after a miserable 4-8 start: The Eagles jelled. They won their final four games as the O-line turned into a team strength and the defense made big strides. That is expected to carry over into this season. "If you look at the end of the season, we were a top-10 defense in a lot of (categories)," CB Nnamdi Asomugha told PFW. "I think the growth was there. I think good things lie ahead. I really do." With Asante Samuel gone, the Eagles should get back to playing more press-man coverage, which fits Asomugha and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie better, and they can afford to do so with as deep and dangerous a front four as the NFL offers. There were other factors, as well. DeSean Jackson's contract situation became a distraction, and it affected team morale. With a new contract extension in place, that is no longer an issue. "I was so glad DeSean got his deal done," fellow WR Jason Avant said. "It's less of a distraction to the team and to him. You can put contracts and egos and everything else to the side now." The stunning trade for MLB DeMeco Ryans is expected to help to that end, as he'll keep other egos in check, as well as help bind a defense that lacked cohesion and direction at linebacker. The talent remains in Philly; now they just need to put it all together.

JOINING THE CONTENDERS

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

(2011 RECORD: 7-9)

No team suffered a rash of injuries early in the season like the Chiefs did, losing S Eric Berry, TE Tony Moeaki and RB Jamaal Charles. That sent them to an 0-3 start in which they were outscored by a count of 109-27. They then adjusted and ripped off four straight wins, remaining in contention until QB Matt Cassel — say what you will about him — went down with a hand injury. They lost 5-of-6 to fall out of the playoff hunt, costing Todd Haley his job, but a masterful defensive performance in then-interim, now full-time head coach Romeo Crennel's first game against the 13-0 Packers opened eyes. That set off a three-game defensive period (33 points allowed to the Packers, Raiders and Broncos) to close out the season and give them hope leading into 2012. That defense will be tested early with some fiery offenses on the first part of the schedule, but it's a group that could be better as a whole this season, even with the tough loss of CB Brandon Carr. The drafting of NT Dontari Poe could help the rest of the defensive line and open up more rush lanes for OLBs Tambi Hali and ascending Justin Houston, who had all of his 5½ sacks in the final five games of his rookie season. Some sensible, below-market offensive signings (ORT Eric Winston, RB Peyton Hillis, TE Kevin Boss) could help, as could the development of WR Jon Baldwin, who missed the first five games of last season with a hand injury but showed a few flashes, and C Rodney Hudson. Playing in a division where the Raiders are drifting a bit and the Chargers might be waning can't hurt, although defending Peyton Manning twice per season will be a chore.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

(2011 RECORD: 7-9)

Losing three-fifths of their offensive line — including talented OLT Russell Okung and first-round ORT James Carpenter — didn't help the Seahawks last season. Neither did seeing the Seattle WR curse strike Sidney Rice, who was limited to nine injury-marred games. Watching two starting cornerbacks go down was not a great thing necessarily, but it did open the door for breakout CBs Richard Sherman and Brandon Browner, who comprise part of what could be the league's best young secondary with safeties Kam Chancellor and Earl Thomas another year wiser and stronger. But the biggest improvement could come at quarterback with their one truly big free-agent signing. Matt Flynn came at a bargain-basement price ($10 million), at least as far as starting quarterbacks go. Flynn fit the theme of the team's additions this offseason, in that the veterans they brought in should provide help to players already on the roster. Flynn will aid the passing game, DT Jason Jones should make DT Brandon Mebane and DE Red Bryant better, and adding MLB Barrett Ruud (cheaply, too) allows promising K.J. Wright to stay on the weak side, where he was strong the last half of his rookie season. Adding the purest pass rusher in the draft (Bruce Irvin) might provide Aldon Smith-like benefits in Year One, even if Irvin is only a 30-snap player each game. The Seahawks finished last season with five wins in six games through Week 15, before closing out with narrow losses to the 49ers and Cardinals. If they can survive a tricky first part of this year's schedule, the Seahawks could surprise in a still volatile NFC West.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

(2011 RECORD: 6-10)

It really is scary to think that Cam Newton, coming off the most prolific rookie QB season ever, is just scratching the surface. He still turned the ball over 19 times, failed to throw for more than 290 yards in his final 12 starts and had a passer rating of 68.6 in the fourth quarter of one-score games. Although several high-profile rookie quarterbacks have not made significant strides in Year Two, Newton has something special brewing in Carolina. His dangerous running, fearless throwing and clutch genes will serve him well with an ace receiver (Steve Smith), a stout running game, a quality tight end (Greg Olsen) and WR David Gettis returning from ACL surgery. Plus, the O-line in front of Newton should be better with a few subtle but solid additions (second-round OG Amini Silatolu, OT Bruce Campbell, OG Mike Pollak) and a healthy season from ORT Jeff Otah. If Newton can stay at the same level of production and clean up a few elements of his game, the sky is the limit. The Panthers signed only one offensive name of note — FB-RB Mike Tolbert — and he came at way below his expected market value. The defense also carries potential for vast improvement considering all of the players they lost a season ago. MLB Jon Beason (Achilles) and SLB Thomas Davis (ACL) went down in the first two weeks of the season, and their replacements couldn't stop the run with a turnstile at the position. If both return healthy, linebacker could be a strength with rookie Luke Kuechly in the middle (likely moving Beason to the weak side) and James Anderson in reserve. They also return their top three defensive tackles in Ron Edwards and '11 rookies Sione Fua and Terrell McClain. Ron Rivera will have far more depth on this side of the ball, with the team having mined street free agency for two seasons to accrue depth and develop a

few sleepers. Plus, with a full offseason, Rivera and coordinator Sean McDermott can spend more time installing their system after they were hindered in doing so with the lockout last offseason.

AIMING FOR RESPECTABILITY

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

(2011 RECORD: 5-11)

For years, the Redskins' pattern was the same: mortgage draft picks for trades and free-agent signings. They always favored the established veterans over the kids. For years, it cost them dearly. This time around, the team cast a different spin on a familiar tune. They traded three years' worth of high draft picks in order to move up and draft Baylor's Robert Griffin III, who they believe will be their cornerstone for years to come. And we can't fault their approach in free agency, landing Griffin some WR help (Pierre Garcon and Josh Morgan) and creating some competition at safety, which had been beset by injury. But for this team, a few other forces — along with Griffin's immense talent and skills — could guide it back toward respectability. One is pressure. It's hard to say that being on the hot seat makes anyone coach better, but we might see more of the aggressiveness that Mike Shanahan flashed last season but without the proper offensive weapons to make it work effectively. No. 2 is a defense that appeared to be on the verge of something special — until it tumbled a bit down the stretch. Yet, if the Redskins can figure out the safety position and if OLB Brian Orakpo can take the next step as the playmaker he has shown flashes of being, this could be a very sound unit in 2012. The defensive line was the strength last season, and another year in the scheme should only improve things. NT Barry Cofield will be better after a solid debut as a 3-4 nose, DE Stephen Bowen started to really come on and DE Jarvis Jenkins (who looked great in August) is back from a torn ACL and could pace this unit. There are questions, no doubt — starting with the offensive line, flowing into the other offensive skill positions and ending up in that secondary. But if the young players step up — only one projected starter, London Fletcher, is over 30 — just a little bit each, you could see a Redskins team that contends for the division title and not the basement, which they have become all too familiar with.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

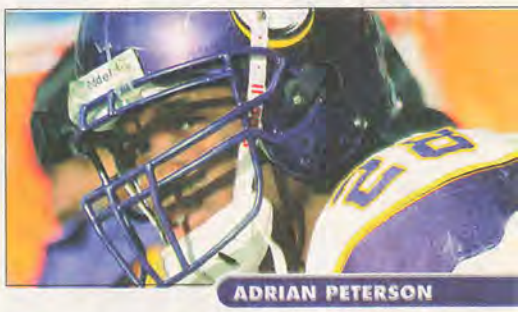
(2011 RECORD: 5-11)

Coaching should have a big impact on this season. The Jaguars had to accelerate the learning curve dramatically in 2011 for QB Blaine Gabbert, who was forced into the lineup in Week Two when starter Luke McCown struggled mightily. That made life tough for Gabbert, who ended up logging the league's worst passer rating among starters. He completed 50.8 percent of his passes, often looked gun-shy and failed to take tangible strides during the season. With the lockout robbing him of valuable learning time, it was a terrible spot in which to try to develop. Now Gabbert has several offensive mentors — new head coach Mike Mularkey, offensive coordinator Bob Bratkowski and QB coach Greg Olsen — who have coached up Pro Bowlers before. They'll work with him closely and help tailor the passing game to his and his pass catchers' strengths. Wide receiver was a sore spot all season, and coaching was a big reason. Johnny Cox and Mike Sheppard (once Cox was fired) failed to develop any of the players, and that also hurt Gabbert's progress. New WR coach Jerry Sullivan is known as a tough-love teacher who could turn this unit around, and he'll have gifted first-rounder Justin Blackmon to play with. Assuming WR Mike Thomas and TE Marcedes Lewis return to form, they and centerpiece RB Maurice Jones-Drew all of a sudden comprise a far more interesting skill-position group. And considering what Mel Tucker did with his defense after all the injuries it suffered last season, this could be a surprisingly good unit if DT Terrance Knighton (eye surgery) is back to form. Collectively, the "D" lost its top three corners, its starting weak-side linebacker, its best pass rusher and best run-stopping end to injured reserve, and still managed to rank sixth in yards allowed and 11th in points allowed.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

(2011 RECORD: 3-13)

The Vikings' best player, RB Adrian Peterson, is coming off ACL surgery. They parted ways with several mainstays, either by releasing them or letting them walk, including Steve Hutchinson, E.J. Henderson, Cedric Griffin and Visanthe Shiancoe. They play in a division with the Packers, Lions and Bears. The coach is perhaps entering a hot-seat season. What, exactly, is to like here? Stick with us a moment. The Vikings have a young QB in Christian Ponder who played well after earning a starting job, then regressed as the O-line broke down and Peterson was sidelined. Drafting OLT Matt Kalil should help Ponder, who won games in college when he had good protection. There is added rookie and veteran help at receiver and tight end, and throw in second-year TE Kyle Rudolph, who could ascend quickly, and it's a much better group. That takes pressure off Percy Harvin, too, to produce in every game. It also took



ADRIAN PETERSON

the coaches 12 games to figure out what to do with Joe Webb, who might flash more often as a "Blazer" package weapon. The "D" shed some of its older skin, and it might represent rebirth. Chris Cook could turn into a No. 1 corner, DE Brian Robison still might have upside, and NT Letroy Guion and MLB Jasper Brinkley offer some fresh legs to the lineup. Rookie S Harrison Smith is smart, dependable and mature. Unsung D-linemen Everson Griffen, Christian Ballard, D'Aundre Reed and Trevor Guyton can contribute in a rotation. And don't forget DE Jared Allen — imagine what he could do with better pass coverage and stronger DL support. If Peterson misses time, it's a major detriment. The schedule also poses problems, and head coach Leslie Frazier can't get in too deep a hole early. But by season's end, he and new coordinator Alan Williams should have the defense in far better shape, in terms of assignments, than it was a year ago. Nine of their 13 losses were by one score last season, and poor depth was partly to blame. Addressing that at several spots could lead to a few surprise victories this time around.

NOW YOU CAN ENJOY

Home field advantage

EVERY SINGLE WEEK OF THE SEASON

The best way to get the "Best Coverage In the NFL" all year long is by subscribing to Pro Football Weekly for digital or home delivery.

Just call

1-800-FOOTBALL

(1-800-366-8225)

and use your credit card

or order online at: www.pfwstore.com

The Way We Hear It, with insider info on every team.

Fantasy Football.

NFL game previews.

In-depth NFL stats.

NFL Draft coverage.

Handicapping advice.

And much much, more!

PLAYER RANKINGS

GRADE SCALE

4.0 to 5.0 [BLUE CHIP] — Pro Bowl-quality player who consistently makes big plays.

3.0 to 3.99 [RED CHIP] — Impact player who produces like a starter but falls short in at least one area.

2.4 to 2.99 [PURPLE] — Starter who often gets the job done, or a still-developing player who has the potential to get it done.

LEGEND

| C | — Player is at a crossroads.
| D | — Player has begun to decline or may soon start to decline.
| U | — Player has more upside.
| UU | — Player has a huge upside.
| X | — Injury concern.

CRITERIA FOR RATINGS

1. Performance in 2011.
2. Potential.
3. Value to team.
4. Overall career performance.

By **MIKE WILKENING**

Pro Football Weekly's player rankings are compiled with the help of evaluators and coaches, as well as PFW staff input. All respondents were asked to evaluate players based on PFW's grading rubric, which is listed above. NFL personnel participated on condition of anonymity. PFW editors Arthur Arkush, Dan Arkush, Eric Edholm, Kevin Fishbain, Eli Kaberon and Dan Parr contributed to this story.

AARON RODGERS

QUARTERBACKS

1 AARON RODGERS
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **4.80**

■ The numbers are staggering: Rodgers earned PFW/Professional Football Writers of America MVP honors in 2011, throwing for 4,643 yards with 45 TDs and a mere six interceptions while completing 68.3 percent of his attempts. And consider this number: He does not turn 30 until December 2013. Rodgers possesses excellent accuracy, a strong arm and above-average mobility. Making matters worse for the opposition? He has an impressive complement of receivers at his disposal.

2 TOM BRADY
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **4.75**

■ Brady had an MVP-caliber season in 2011, throwing for 5,235 yards with 39 TDs and 12 interceptions. His résumé has it all — Super Bowl rings, widespread accolades — and he has aged gracefully. His last two seasons have been two of his very finest. Give Brady time in the pocket and he will coolly shred the defense.

3 DREW BREES
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **4.75**

■ Brees broke the NFL single-season passing yards record in 2011, led the Saints to their third division title of his tenure in New Orleans and garnered AP MVP consideration. He's a precise passer who throws with great anticipation and touch, and he's an outstanding leader. He is very clearly one of the NFL's most valuable players.

4 ELI MANNING
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **4.60**

■ The question of whether Manning belongs among the game's elite has been answered. He is one of the game's most skilled and confident passers, a quarterback capable of making all of the throws. He was exceptional as the Giants won their second Super Bowl in five seasons, completing 106-of-

163 passes for 1,219 yards with nine TDs and just one interception as New York captured four postseason games in a row.

5 PEYTON MANNING
DENVER BRONCOS

GRADE ▸ **4.40** | X; D |

■ At age 36, and having sat out the 2011 season with a neck injury, Manning may or may not be able to return to his prior form. Yet, until he proves he cannot play at a high level, he merits the benefit of the doubt, given his Hall of Fame level of play in his first 13 seasons. Even if he loses a little bit of his fastball to age, his excellent understanding of the game figures to give him a chance to succeed at a high level.

6 BEN ROETHLISBERGER
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **4.35**

■ Roethlisberger has a unique skill set. His arm strength, mobility, field vision, creativity and toughness are all exceptional. He has made his name with his willingness to take the big hit for the big play, but will he start to alter his game in the latter stages of his career? He has played in all 16 regular-season games only once in his NFL career.

7 PHILIP RIVERS
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GRADE ▸ **4.25**

■ Rivers had an uncharacteristically error-laden season — he threw multiple interceptions in half of his 16 games — but he picked up his play late in the season as his supporting cast got healthy and his offensive line, beset by injuries, began to jell. He throws with outstanding touch, accuracy and anticipation but lacks great arm strength and mobility.

8 MATTHEW STAFFORD
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ **3.90**

■ In his first full season as a starter, Stafford exceeded 5,000 yards passing. He has exceptional arm strength — only Eli Manning had more completions of 40-plus yards — and has the potential to get even better. He has an outstanding rapport with top receiver Calvin Johnson.

9 MICHAEL VICK
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ **3.90**

■ Vick has rare gifts for the position, possessing a strong arm and outstanding speed. However, he is not especially accurate, and he did not play as well in 2011 as he did in a remarkable 2010 campaign. Nevertheless, there are easier quarterbacks against whom to gameplan, to say the least.

10 CAM NEWTON
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ **3.85** | UU |

■ Newton had an incredible rookie season, throwing for 4,051 yards and 21 touchdowns and rushing for 706 yards and 14 TDs. His potential is great, and it is exciting. If he continues to improve — with cutting down on interceptions and sacks taken being two areas he can get better at — look out.

11 JAY CUTLER
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **3.85**

■ The Bears faltered after he suffered a season-ending injury on an interception return vs. San Diego in November. At the time, Cutler was playing better than he ever had in his three-year tenure in Chicago. He's a tough, strong-armed, mobile passer in the prime of his career, and the improvement he showed

PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY

SUPER 50

REGARDLESS OF POSITION

1	**AARON RODGERS** • GREEN BAY PACKERS	4.80
2	**TOM BRADY** • NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	4.75
3	**DREW BREES** • NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	4.75
4	**ELI MANNING** • NEW YORK GIANTS	4.60
5	**CALVIN JOHNSON** • DETROIT LIONS	4.60
6	**DeMARCUS WARE** • DALLAS COWBOYS	4.50
7	**LARRY FITZGERALD** • ARIZONA CARDINALS	4.50
8	**DARRELLE REVIS** • NEW YORK JETS	4.50
9	**PEYTON MANNING** • DENVER BRONCOS	4.40
10	**BEN ROETHLISBERGER** • PITTSBURGH STEELERS	4.35
11	**PHILIP RIVERS** • SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	4.25
12	**ARIAN FOSTER** • HOUSTON TEXANS	4.25
13	**ROB GRONKOWSKI** • NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	4.25
14	**JARED ALLEN** • MINNESOTA VIKINGS	4.25
15	**JULIUS PEPPERS** • CHICAGO BEARS	4.20
16	**ANDRE JOHNSON** • HOUSTON TEXANS	4.15
17	**ADRIAN PETERSON** • MINNESOTA VIKINGS	4.15
18	**JIMMY GRAHAM** • NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	4.15
19	**TERRELL SUGGS** • BALTIMORE RAVENS	4.15
20	**LeSEAN McCOY** • PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	4.15
21	**HALOTI NGATA** • BALTIMORE RAVENS	4.15
22	**JOE THOMAS** • CLEVELAND BROWNS	4.10
23	**CLAY MATTHEWS** • GREEN BAY PACKERS	4.10
24	**PATRICK WILLIS** • SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS	4.10
25	**MAURICE JONES-DREW** • JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	4.10
26	**GREG JENNINGS** • GREEN BAY PACKERS	4.05
27	**JUSTIN TUCK** • NEW YORK GIANTS	4.05
28	**VERNON DAVIS** • SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS	4.05
29	**JASON PIERRE-PAUL** • NEW YORK GIANTS	4.05
30	**RAY RICE** • BALTIMORE RAVENS	4.05
31	**TRENT COLE** • PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	4.05
32	**D'BRICKASHAW FERGUSON** • NEW YORK JETS	4.05
33	**MATT FORTÉ** • CHICAGO BEARS	4.05
34	**VINCE WILFORK** • NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	4.05
35	**JAKE LONG** • MIAMI DOLPHINS	4.00
36	**BRANDON MARSHALL** • CHICAGO BEARS	4.00
37	**TAMBA HALI** • KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	4.00
38	**TROY POLAMALU** • PITTSBURGH STEELERS	4.00
39	**WES WELKER** • NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	4.00
40	**CHRIS JOHNSON** • TENNESSEE TITANS	4.00
41	**HAKEEM NICKS** • NEW YORK GIANTS	4.00
42	**CORTLAND FINNEGAN** • ST. LOUIS RAMS	4.00
43	**RYAN CLADY** • DENVER BRONCOS	4.00
44	**ANTONIO GATES** • SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	4.00
45	**JAHRI EVANS** • NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	4.00
46	**RODDY WHITE** • ATLANTA FALCONS	4.00
47	**STEVE SMITH** • CAROLINA PANTHERS	4.00
48	**BRIAN ORAKPO** • WASHINGTON REDSKINS	4.00
49	**DWAYNE BOWE** • KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	4.00
50	**JOHNATHAN JOSEPH** • HOUSTON TEXANS	4.00

last season was promising.

12 MATT RYAN
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ 3.85

■ The glaring hole on Ryan's résumé is a lack of playoff success, as Atlanta has not won a postseason game in three tries in his four seasons as a starter. Nevertheless, it is hard to have many qualms about Ryan's play in his brief NFL career. Tough and accurate, Ryan lacks an exceptionally strong arm.

13 TONY ROMO
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ 3.85

■ The stat sheet suggests Romo is an above-average starting quarterback. Like Matt Ryan, however, his lack of playoff success hurts his reputation. Moreover, Romo has made some big mistakes in key spots during his career. On balance, though, he has had a very good career for Dallas, and he continues to play at a high level.

14 MATT SCHAUB
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ 3.70

■ Schaub is a strong fit in Gary Kubiak's offense. He's an accurate short and intermediate passer with the arm strength needed to stretch the field when needed. The concerns with Schaub are durability (multiple missed starts in 3-of-5 seasons in Houston) and a lack of playoff experience.

15 JOE FLACCO
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ 3.50

■ Given the stakes, Flacco's best game may have come in the 2011 AFC title game, when he outplayed Tom Brady and gave the Ravens every chance to win. Flacco is at his best when he has a clean pocket and can find his first read. He struggles when pressured and lacks mobility. He possesses one of the game's strongest arms.

16 JOSH FREEMAN
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

GRADE ▸ 3.40

■ After a promising season in 2010, Freeman took a step backward in 2011, struggling with turnovers (27) for a Tampa Bay offense that lacked punch. Just 24, Freeman could very well improve this season, but he has some growing to do to rank among the game's best at his position.

17 SAM BRADFORD
ST. LOUIS RAMS

GRADE ▸ 3.40

■ Bradford struggled in his second NFL season with a high ankle sprain for a St. Louis offense that was the NFL's worst. His potential is evident — he has a good arm and can be very accurate. However, while he needs a better supporting cast surrounding him, his play has sometimes fallen short of No. 1-pick caliber in his first two NFL seasons.

18 ALEX SMITH
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ 3.40

■ Smith is an example of how a club's patience can pay dividends. Thought to be out of San Francisco's plans after the 2010 season, Smith got a fresh start under new head coach Jim Harbaugh and made significant strides in 2011. Smith is athletic and accurate and takes care of the ball.

19 CARSON PALMER
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ 3.30

■ Palmer is a streaky signalcaller capable of carving up defenses at times and, at others, passing his team out of games with ill-advised throws. He throws with good touch and anticipation and has enough arm strength to make some big-time downfield throws but lacks mobility.

20 ANDY DALTON
CINCINNATI BENGALS

GRADE ▸ 3.25 |U|

■ Dalton made the Pro Bowl as a rookie after helping lead the Bengals to a playoff spot. He showed significant promise, particularly early in the season after making considerable improvement over his preseason play. The concerns with Dalton are his arm strength and his accuracy; the latter can wane at times. But it's clear he can get better, and he has a bright future.

BEST OF THE REST

21 **MATT CASSEL** KANSAS CITY CHIEFS 3.25
22 **RYAN FITZPATRICK** BUFFALO BILLS 3.10
23 **MARK SANCHEZ** NEW YORK JETS 3.10
24 **KYLE ORTON** DALLAS COWBOYS 3.10
25 **MATT HASSELBECK** TENNESSEE TITANS 3.10 |D|

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

BLAINE GABBERT JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
MATT FLYNN SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
KEVIN KOLB ARIZONA CARDINALS
JAKE LOCKER TENNESSEE TITANS
CHRISTIAN PONDER MINNESOTA VIKINGS
JOHN SKELTON ARIZONA CARDINALS

ARIAN FOSTER

RUNNING BACKS

1 ARIAN FOSTER
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ 4.25

■ Foster has a wonderful all-around game. He's tough enough to run inside. He has the long speed needed to run away from defenders on the second level. He has wonderful vision. He's adept at breaking tackles and gaining extra yardage. What's more, he's excellent in the passing game, too. No back was better in the 2011 postseason, as he shredded two good defenses in Cincinnati and Baltimore.

2 ADRIAN PETERSON
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

GRADE ▸ 4.15 |X|

■ Whether Peterson will be ready for the start of the season remains to be seen after he suffered an ACL tear on Dec. 24. He has been one of the NFL's premier offensive players since entering the league in 2007 — a battering ram and home-run threat. All eyes are on whether he again returns to the form that had put him on the fast track for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first five seasons.

3 LeSEAN McCOY
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ 4.15

■ McCoy's quickness and agility are something to behold. No back had more rushes of 20 yards or longer than the Eagles' star back, a three-down player capable of carrying a heavy workload and making a difference in the passing game. He does not turn 24 until July.

4 MAURICE JONES-DREW
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

GRADE ▸ 4.10

■ Jones-Drew was unquestionably the Jaguars' MVP in 2011. He set career highs in carries (343) and rushing yards (1,606) and scored a team-high 11 TDs for a Jaguars team that simply had no other consistent threat on offense. The 5-7, 208-pound Jones-Drew has made his name playing much, much bigger than his size.

5 RAY RICE
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ 4.05

■ Rice led the NFL in combined rushing-receiving yards (2,068) a season ago. The 5-8, 212-pound Rice is tough, quick and agile and can stress defenses like few other backs because of his all-around game.

6 MATT FORTÉ
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ 4.05

■ Forté was never better than he was a year ago, when he fell just short of 1,000 rushing yards in 12 games before a season-ending injury. Forté can get the tough yards between the tackles, and he is dangerous as a pass catcher out of the

TUSP

backfield, too. Quickness and vision are two of his major assets.

7 CHRIS JOHNSON
TENNESSEE TITANS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ In 2009, Johnson came within 100 yards of breaking Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record. He gained 5.6 yards per carry, scored 14 TDs and had 22 rushes of 20 yards or longer. In 2010, Johnson's average fell to 4.3 yards per attempt, and he had 13 rushes of 20 yards or longer to go with 11 TDs. After the season, the Titans signed him to a lucrative contract extension — only to see Johnson perform even worse in 2011. While Johnson exceeded 1,000 yards rushing, he gained just 4.0 yards per carry, scored just four TDs and had just 11 gains of 20-plus yards. All eyes are on whether Johnson, who should still seemingly be in the prime of his career, can stop his slide.

8 STEVEN JACKSON
ST. LOUIS RAMS

GRADE ▸ **3.95** | D |

■ Jackson has never failed to exceed 1,000 yards rushing in any of his seven seasons as the Rams' full-time starter. Stout and athletic, the 240-pound Jackson is a three-down back. Jackson, who turns 29 in July, has more than 2,500 career touches to his credit.

9 DARREN McFADDEN
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ **3.80** | X |

■ Fast and strong, McFadden is a difference maker when on top of his game. The problem for McFadden? His durability. He has never played a full season. He has the talent to challenge for rushing titles and the versatility to utterly fill up the stat sheet, and he does not turn 25 until late August.

10 RYAN MATHEWS
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GRADE ▸ **3.80** | U |

■ Mathews does not lack for potential, and he took a big step forward in 2011, exceeding 1,000 yards rushing and catching 50 passes. He has the ability to come close to 2,000 combined yards — Ray Rice and Maurice Jones-Drew territory — if he can play a full season, which he has yet to do. The best could be yet to come for the third-year pro from Fresno State.

11 JAMAAL CHARLES
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **3.75** | X |

■ Charles suffered an ACL tear in Kansas City's second regular-season game after landing awkwardly out of bounds. Speed is Charles' game, so it will be interesting to see how he fares upon his return to the field. He has been judiciously used by the Chiefs throughout his career, limiting wear and tear, so we can only wait to see whether this exciting running back returns to top form.

12 MICHAEL TURNER
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ **3.70** | D |

■ The 30-year-old Turner showed he had life left in his legs with a fine 2011 season. He rushed for 1,340 yards, gained 4.5 yards per carry and racked up 11 rushes of 20-plus yards. How much longer he can remain a productive starter given his pounding rushing style remains to be seen, but he did more than his share last season.

13 MARSHAWN LYNCH
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

GRADE ▸ **3.70**

■ The 5-11, 215-pound Lynch is a grinding, physical inside runner who can wear out a defense over four quarters. He also has the speed to take it the distance if he gets to the second level. Toughness is his defining trait as a rusher.

14 FRANK GORE
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

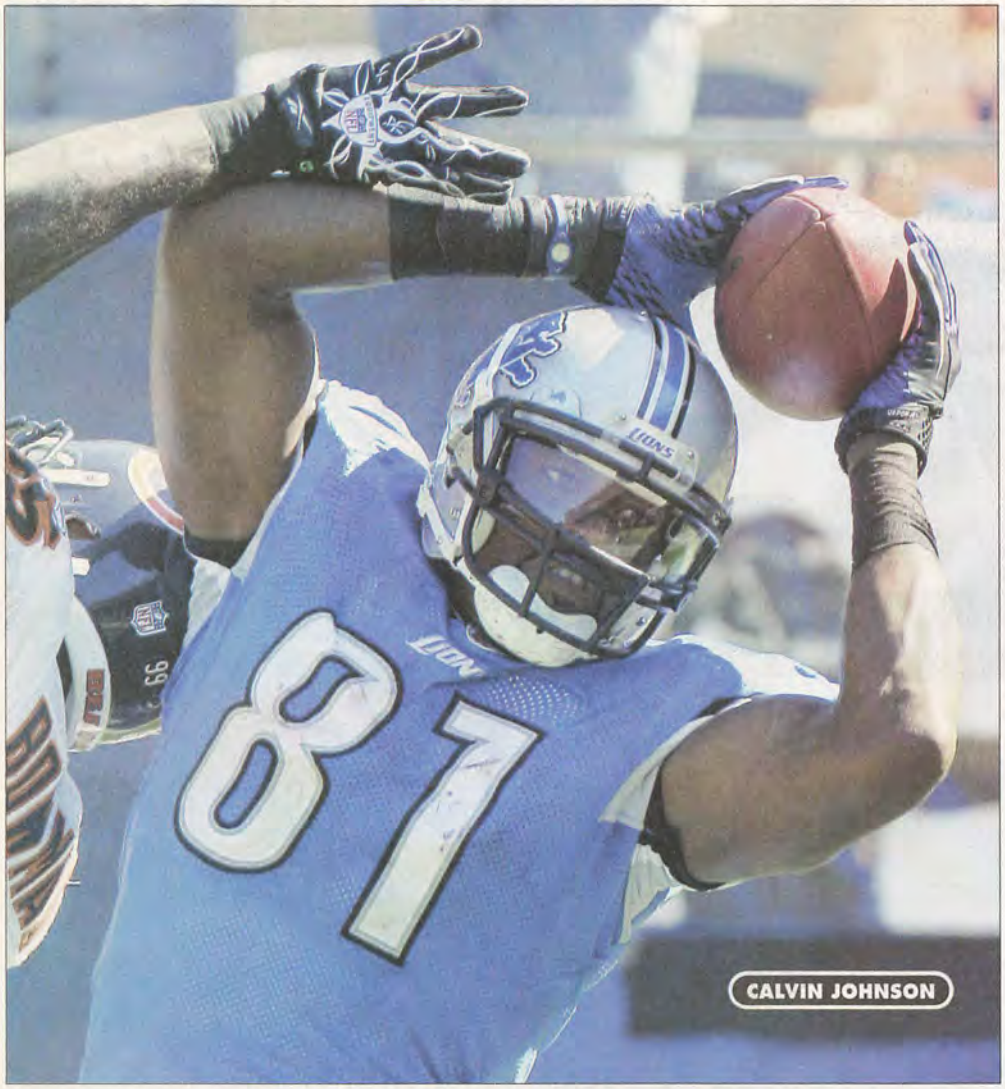
GRADE ▸ **3.55** | D |

■ Gore, the focal point of the 49ers' running game, has rushed for more than 1,000 yards five times. The 49ers used him a little less in the passing game last season, something that probably doesn't hurt with regard to managing the wear and tear on a running back who's as tough as nails but has a long history of injuries.

15 FRED JACKSON
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ In just 10 games in 2011, Jackson rushed for 934 yards and added 442



yards receiving. Quick and versatile, Jackson is a 21st-century featured back, combining the pass-catching skills needed to be a threat on passing downs and the running skills to be an old-school workhorse. Third-year RB C.J. Spiller is expected to challenge for more playing time this season, but Jackson figures to remain a key part of the offense.

16 DeANGELO WILLIAMS
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ **3.45**

■ With QB Cam Newton a top-caliber running threat at his position and fellow tailback Jonathan Stewart a very good player in his own right, Williams isn't going to challenge for the carries title, but his speed makes him a threat every time he touches the ball, as evidenced by his 5.4 yards per carry a season ago.

17 JONATHAN STEWART
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ **3.40** |X|

■ Strong and fast, Stewart could carry a starter's workload with no problem whatsoever — and could challenge for Pro Bowl honors under those circumstances, considering his prodigious talent. As is, he's a wonderful complement to DeAngelo Williams in the Panthers' super-talented backfield.

18 RASHARD MENDENHALL
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **3.35** |X|

■ Mendenhall suffered a torn ACL in the Steelers' final regular-season game, and his readiness for the start of this season is in question. Before the injury, Mendenhall had very good straight-line speed but was not especially elusive and lacked elite vision for the position.

19 DARREN SPROLES
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **3.30**

■ Sproles is an outstanding fit in the Saints' offense. Though he touched the ball just 173 times on offense, he made the most of his opportunities, racking up 710 yards receiving and 603 yards rushing and scoring nine TDs. There's no doubting his value to the New Orleans attack.

20 DeMARCO MURRAY
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **3.25** |X|

■ Murray garners this spot on the basis of the promise he showed as a rookie, when he gained 897 yards and racked up 5.5 yards per carry in 13 games. His ability to handle a heavy workload on this level remains to be seen.

BEST OF THE REST

21 **AHMAD BRADSHAW** NEW YORK GIANTS **3.25**
22 **WILLIS McGAHEE** DENVER BRONCOS **3.20** |D|
23 **LeGARRETTE BLOUNT** TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS **3.20**
24 **REGGIE BUSH** MIAMI DOLPHINS **3.20**
25 **BEANIE WELLS** ARIZONA CARDINALS **3.15**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

JAHVID BEST DETROIT LIONS
TOBY GERHART MINNESOTA VIKINGS
ROY HELU WASHINGTON REDSKINS
KENDALL HUNTER SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
MARK INGRAM NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
STEVAN RIDLEY NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
C.J. SPILLER BUFFALO BILLS
JAMES STARKS GREEN BAY PACKERS
BEN TATE HOUSTON TEXANS
DANIEL THOMAS MIAMI DOLPHINS

WIDE RECEIVERS

1 CALVIN JOHNSON
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ **4.60**

■ Double-teaming Johnson is not a surefire way of stopping him. He is too fast for the vast majority of most defenders, so if he gets a step, he is tough to catch. And if he is even with those defending him, he still has the advantage, given his size and strength. No receiver is better in jump-ball situations. Red-zone threat, intermediate threat, deep threat — Johnson is all of these things. And he is an exceptionally hard worker, too.

2 LARRY FITZGERALD
ARIZONA CARDINALS

GRADE ▸ **4.50**

■ Fitzgerald needs 385 receiving yards to reach 10,000 on a career that looks, for all the world, to be worthy of Hall of Fame consideration when it is over. Considering Fitzgerald does not turn 30 until August 2013, Fitzgerald should be a blue-chip performer for the foreseeable future. Fitzgerald has exceptional hands, size and strength and possesses a complete game, putting defenses to the test at every spot on the field.

3 ANDRE JOHNSON
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ **4.15**

■ As he showed last season when healthy, Johnson is one of the true difference makers at his position. He was outstanding in the postseason, catching 13 passes for 201 yards and a TD. The only real concern with Johnson is durability; he's been bothered by or missed significant time with injuries in three of the last five seasons. He sat out nine games in 2011. Big, strong and fast, Johnson is essential to the Texans' offense, which lacks a consistent complementary wideout opposite him.

4 GREG JENNINGS
GREEN BAY PACKERS

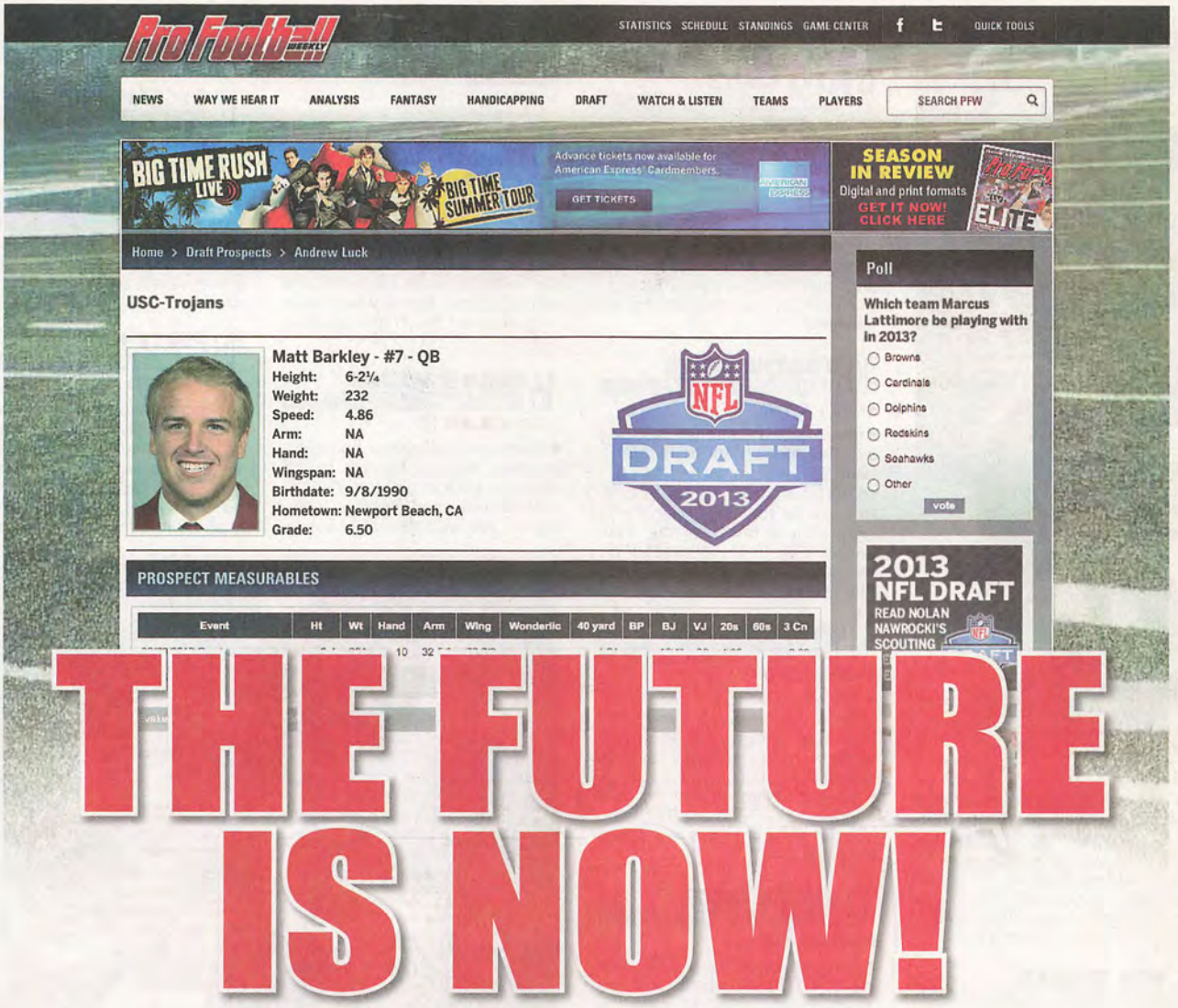
GRADE ▸ **4.05**

■ The swift Jennings is one of numerous field-stretching threats at Aaron Rodgers' disposal in a potent Green Bay offense. He has scored nine TDs or more four separate times. The Packers' offense wasn't quite the same in the later stages of the regular season after he suffered a knee injury.

5 BRANDON MARSHALL
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **4.00** |C|

■ Marshall is a short-area and downfield threat because of his physical-



THE FUTURE IS NOW!

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE TOP NFL PROSPECTS BY VISITING PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY'S DRAFT DATABASE:

- Player rankings, sortable by position.
- The latest NFL draft buzz hot off the scouting trails.
- Charts measuring prospects' draft stock.
- Players on the rise, on the slide.
- Historical draft data, including scouting reports on current NFL players.
- Intelligence and character assessments of top pro prospects.

Pro Football Weekly.com

You'll find our draft coverage in the **Draft** channel.

www.ProFootballWeekly.com/draft

TIM SADLON

ANDRE JOHNSON

ity and athleticism. He has notched five consecutive seasons of 1,000-plus yards receiving, and he figures to be quite productive working again with ex-Broncos teammate Jay Cutler in Chicago. The knocks on Marshall include drops and a history of off-field incidents.

6 WES WELKER
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Welker has made his name working out of the slot. Quick and tough, he caught 22 passes more than any other NFL player in the 2011 regular season. Moreover, he hauled in 70.5 percent of the passes thrown his way — a remarkably good catch rate, considering the number of opportunities. He is the game's most productive inside receiver.

7 HAKEEM NICKS
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Nicks was the NFL's leading receiver in the postseason. Swift and strong, he can stretch the field and can be a tough cover in the red zone, too. Nicks is one of the game's top outside threats at his position.

8 RODDY WHITE
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ No player was targeted more often (180) in 2011 than White, such an important part of the Falcons' attack. He's an outstanding possession threat, with the speed needed to be a downfield threat, too. However, drops are something of a concern for him. He had a league-high 15 a season ago, according to STATS LLC.

9 STEVE SMITH
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ In 2011, Smith proved he was far from done as one of the NFL's premier big-play threats. More than one-third of Smith's 79 receptions went for 20 yards or longer as the addition of QB Cam Newton rejuvenated the Carolina offense. Fast and tough, Smith is dangerous after the catch and can take the top off a defense.

10 DWAYNE BOWE
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Bowe's size and strength, coupled with his athleticism, make him a bona fide No. 1 target. His last two seasons have been his best, a positive sign for the LSU product, who received the franchise tag from Kansas City in the offseason. He has exceeded 1,000 yards receiving three times.

11 MIKE WALLACE
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **3.95**

■ Speed is Wallace's best attribute as a receiver. He can run by coverages designed to keep him under wraps, and his skill set suits QB Ben Roethlisberger's daring, stretch-the-field style. He has improved as an underneath threat, but the vertical routes are where he shines.

12 VICTOR CRUZ
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **3.95** |U|

■ Cruz emerged as a difference maker in 2011 and was a major key as the Giants rallied to make the playoffs and then won their second Super Bowl in four seasons. Quick and elusive, he has very good change-of-direction ability, and though slightly built, he can step through and break tackles after the catch.

13 A.J. GREEN
CINCINNATI BENGALS

GRADE ▸ **3.85** |UU|

■ Green was as good as advertised in Year One, becoming the Bengals' go-to wideout and making the Pro Bowl. He is already one of the game's elite field-stretching threats. He can quickly get on top of the defense, and much like Calvin Johnson, he is wonderful playing the ball in the air. He has the ability to be a perennial All-Pro performer.

14 VINCENT JACKSON
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

GRADE ▸ **3.70**

■ The 29-year-old Jackson is an above-average vertical threat who will bolster a talented but young Tampa Bay WR corps and adds a needed dose of playmaking ability to the Buccaneers' attack. He has exceeded 1,000 yards receiving in three of the last four seasons. The NFC South was loaded with talented wideouts even before he signed with Tampa Bay, and his arrival puts more stress on the division's secondaries.

15 MARQUES COLSTON
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **3.70**

■ Colston is a tall, strong, sure-handed possession receiver who works the middle of the field so very well. He is an excellent fit in the Saints' scheme and works well with QB Drew Brees, who throws with excellent touch and anticipation.

16 REGGIE WAYNE
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

GRADE ▸ **3.60** |D|

■ Tough, reliable, smart and competitive, Wayne figures to be Andrew Luck's go-to target in Indianapolis after years of working so well with Peyton Manning. Remarkably, Wayne has not missed a game since 2001.

17 DeSEAN JACKSON
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ **3.60**

■ The Eagles gave Jackson the contract extension he wanted in March. Will he take his game to another level in 2012? Jackson has out-of-this-world speed, but he is slightly built and can be taken out of the game more easily than you might expect.

18 PERCY HARVIN
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

GRADE ▸ **3.60** |X|

■ It was perhaps lost somewhat in the Vikings' disappointing season, but Harvin had his best season as a wide receiver, finishing fourth in the NFC in receptions (87). He is so tough after the catch — more than half of his 967 receiving

yards came after he had the ball in his hands. He reportedly was to have minor offseason shoulder surgery.

19 JORDY NELSON
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ Nelson has proven he can get behind the defense. His average reception came 12.53 yards downfield a season ago; only four wideouts, including the exceptionally swift DeSean Jackson, posted higher averages in this area a season ago.

20 DEZ BRYANT
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **3.50** |U|

■ Big and physical, Bryant is a tough matchup for corners small and big. He is tough to cover man-to-man, for he has the strength to beat the jam and the speed to get deep. This is one of the NFL's more intriguing young receivers.

CSM PHOTOS

21 JULIO JONES
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ **3.50** |UU|

■ Jones has a rare skill set, possessing uncommon speed and athleticism for his size. He can stretch the field, and he can run away from the secondary after the catch. The only real worry with Jones is durability; he missed three games with a hamstring injury that lingered during his rookie season. Nevertheless, he racked up nearly 1,000 yards receiving — a testament to his talent.

22 STEVIE JOHNSON
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ He's become one of the AFC's notable big-play threats and has racked up more than 1,000 receiving yards in consecutive seasons. Consistency is key for him. He's capable of making the game-changing play — for either team.

23 JEREMY MACLIN
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ Maclin quietly had an impressive season in 2011. Despite being ill during the offseason and missing three games during the season with an injury, he led the Eagles in receptions (63) and racked up 859 yards receiving. The Maclin-DeSean Jackson WR tandem does not lack playmaking ability, to say the least.

24 ANTONIO BROWN
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ Brown had a breakout 2011 season, catching 69 passes for 1,108 yards and gaining 16.1 yards per catch. He is a wonderful complement to Mike Wallace — a game-breaking threat in his own right.

25 MILES AUSTIN
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **3.40**

■ Hamstring injuries limited Austin a season ago, but when healthy, he stresses secondaries with his speed. If he returns to his best form and Dez Bryant keeps improving, look out.

BEST OF THE REST

26 **KENNY BRITT** TENNESSEE TITANS **3.35** |X|
27 **SANTONIO HOLMES** NEW YORK JETS **3.35** |C|
28 **BRANDON LLOYD** NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS **3.35**
29 **ANQUAN BOLDIN** BALTIMORE RAVENS **3.35** |D|
30 **PIERRE GARCON** WASHINGTON REDSKINS **3.30**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

DOUG BALDWIN SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
JON BALDWIN KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
VINCENT BROWN SAN DIEGO CHARGERS
RANDALL COBB GREEN BAY PACKERS
ERIC DECKER DENVER BRONCOS
GREG LITTLE CLEVELAND BROWNS
DENARIUS MOORE OAKLAND RAIDERS
TORREY SMITH BALTIMORE RAVENS
DEMARYIUS THOMAS DENVER BRONCOS
MIKE WILLIAMS TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
TITUS YOUNG DETROIT LIONS

TIGHT ENDS

1 ROB GRONKOWSKI
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **4.25** |U|

■ Gronkowski had a remarkable 2011 season. He hauled in 90 passes for 1,327 yards and 17 TDs — gigantic numbers for a wide receiver, let alone a tight end. He is a challenge for defenses to stop no matter where the Patriots are on the field. He has the speed to beat linebackers and defensive backs downfield, and he's a nightmare to stop in the red zone. What's more, he's tough to bring down after the catch. To wit: He averaged 7.08 yards after the reception a season ago — a figure comparable to that of Giants WR Victor Cruz.

2 JIMMY GRAHAM
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **4.15** |UU|

■ No tight end was targeted more than Graham a season ago, and the former Miami (Fla.) basketball player merited such a heavy workload, considering his productivity (99 receptions) and skill. Graham's size and speed make him an ultratough matchup; he can shield defenders, and he can run by them. If he becomes a little more consistent ... well, that's downright unfair for defenses to ponder.

3 VERNON DAVIS
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **4.05**

■ Davis was dominant in the postseason, racking up 292 yards and four TDs in two games. Clearly, he has the talent to post those kinds of numbers and to have a season like he did three years ago, when he hauled in 78 passes for 965 yards and 13 TDs. Could we see his best season yet in 2012?

4 ANTONIO GATES
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Gates remains a tough cover, still boasting enough speed to get downfield and a veteran's savvy. While he's missed multiple games the last two seasons, and he will turn 32 in June, he would figure to remain among the game's top threats at his position this season.

5 JASON WITTEN
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **3.90**

■ Witten is a solid short-to-intermediate target who knows how to consistently work open. He has the suddenness to get downfield if he gets a free release but not the pure speed of some of the game's other tight ends.

6 JERMICHAEL FINLEY
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75** |U|

■ The 6-5, 247-pound Finley runs as well as some wide receivers and can create major matchup problems with his size and movement skills. He needs to become more consistent catching the ball, however. Nevertheless, at 25, and now in his second season removed from an ACL injury, he definitely has upside to improve.

7 AARON HERNANDEZ
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **3.75** |U|

■ Hernandez is quite the chess piece for the Patriots' offense. He has a wide receiver's quickness and is very dangerous in space and after the catch. He can stretch the field, too.

8 BRANDON PETTIGREW
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ **3.55**

■ Only eight more NFC players were thrown to more often than Pettigrew in 2011, which speaks to his value to the Lions' offense. The 6-5, 265-pound Pettigrew moves very well for his size but is primarily a target on shorter throws.

9 TONY GONZALEZ
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ **3.45** |D|

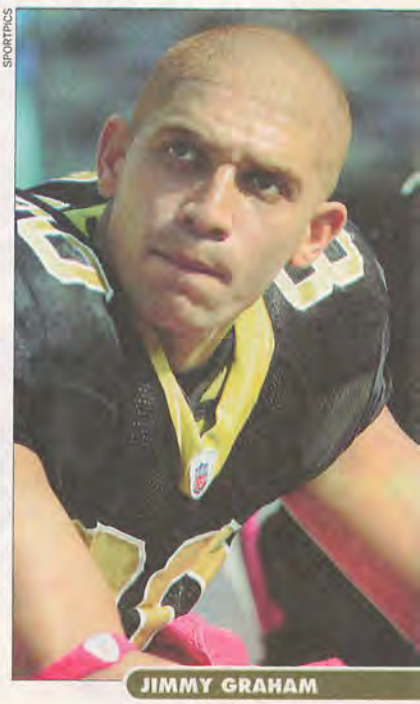
■ He is still a solid possession receiver after all of these years, as evidenced by his 80 receptions last season. Moreoever, he's a willing blocker. He has Matt Ryan's trust in key situations.

10 FRED DAVIS
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

GRADE ▸ **3.40**

■ He showed significant promise when receiving the most extended playing time of his career in 2011, racking up 66.3 receiving yards per

SPORTPICS



JIMMY GRAHAM

game and hauling in 15 catches of 20 yards or longer, which was tied for third-most in the NFL among tight ends. However, he missed the final four games of the season after being suspended for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. His talent is evident, but he must avoid any more disciplinary missteps.

BEST OF THE REST

11 **JERMAINE GRESHAM** CINCINNATI BENGALS 3.40
12 **DUSTIN KELLER** NEW YORK JETS 3.35
13 **OWEN DANIELS** HOUSTON TEXANS 3.35
14 **HEATH MILLER** PITTSBURGH STEELERS 3.35
15 **BRETT CELEK** PHILADELPHIA EAGLES 3.25
16 **KELLEN WINSLOW** TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS 3.25
17 **JARED COOK** TENNESSEE TITANS 3.25 |U|
18 **ZACH MILLER** SEATTLE SEAHAWKS 3.25
19 **GREG OLSEN** CAROLINA PANTHERS 3.20
20 **ED DICKSON** BALTIMORE RAVENS 3.20

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

LANCE KENDRICKS ST. LOUIS RAMS

TONY MOEAKI KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

DENNIS PITTA BALTIMORE RAVENS

KYLE RUDOLPH MINNESOTA VIKINGS

CENTERS

1 MAURKICE POUNCEY
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ 4.00

■ Pouncey could be a perennial Pro Bowl performer. He moves very well, and he has good size for the position. Durability is a slight concern — he has missed time with high ankle sprains in each of his first two seasons — but if he can stay healthy, he is poised to be a top performer for years to come.

2 NICK MANGOLD
NEW YORK JETS

GRADE ▸ 4.00

■ The 6-4, 307-pound Mangold has an ideal combination of size and athleticism for the position. He hadn't missed a game in his career before sitting out two games with an ankle injury a season ago. The Jets, for the record, lost both of those contests.

3 RYAN KALIL
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ 3.90

■ Kalil earned Pro Bowl honors for a third consecutive season in 2011. His movement ability is a major strength and a necessity, as the 6-2, 295-pound USC product regularly has to deal with bigger interior linemen.

4 CHRIS MYERS
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ 3.75

■ Myers' athleticism is an asset. Moreover, he can latch on to his man and create space for RBs Arian Foster and Ben Tate in the team's effective running game. Myers is undersized but a strong fit in the Texans' zone-blocking scheme, where quickness is necessary. The Texans made his re-signing in free agency a priority.

5 SCOTT WELLS
ST. LOUIS RAMS

GRADE ▸ 3.60

■ Wells is smart and durable and played at a high level a season ago for Green Bay. According to STATS LLC, the 31-year-old Wells allowed just two sacks in 2011. If he plays in St. Louis like he did at the end of his Packers tenure, the Rams will be pleased.

6 ALEX MACK
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ 3.60

■ The 6-4, 311-pound Mack has never missed a start in his Browns career. He is the standout along the interior of the Cleveland line. His size makes him well-suited for the personnel in the division.

7 ERIC WOOD
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ 3.50

■ Wood was playing at a very high level before suffering a season-ending ankle injury after nine games in 2011, and the Bills struggled with him out of the lineup. Buffalo was very good running up the middle a season ago. What's more, Wood did not allow a sack, per STATS LLC.

8 NICK HARDWICK
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GRADE ▸ 3.45

■ Like Wood, Hardwick did not allow a sack in 2011, according to STATS LLC figures. What's more, after a false-start penalty in Week One, he wasn't flagged the rest of the season. San Diego re-signed him to a three-year deal in March.

9 JEFF SATURDAY
GREEN BAY PACKERS

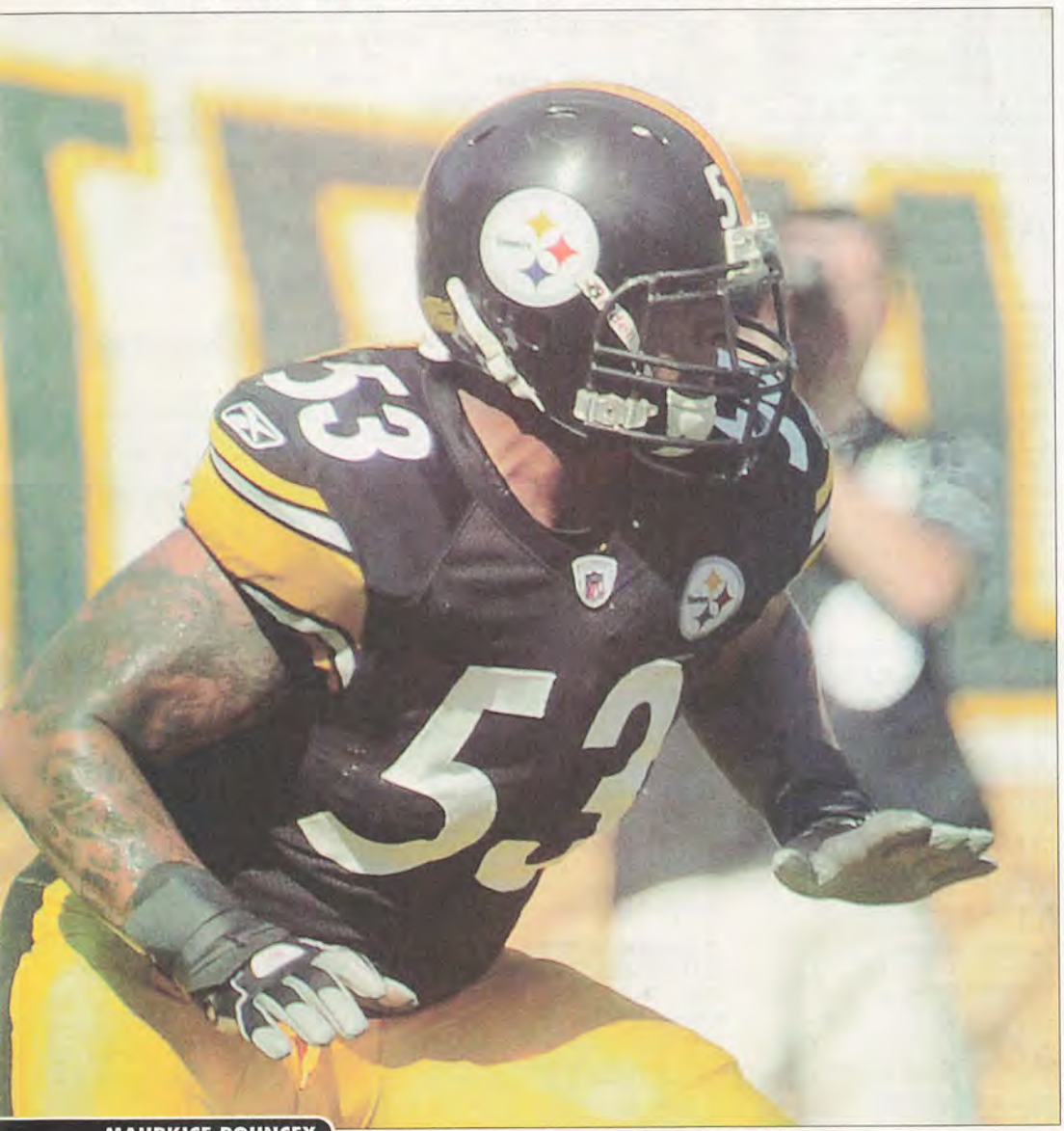
GRADE ▸ 3.45 |D|

■ After 13 seasons in Indianapolis, Saturday has joined Green Bay. His on-field work with Peyton Manning is well-known, so a smooth transition to working with reigning MVP Aaron Rodgers figures within his scope. Much is made about how cerebral Saturday is, but don't overlook how he's been able to hold up physically over the years. Note that he has not missed a game in the last three seasons.

10 BRAD MEESTER
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

GRADE ▸ 3.35 |D|

■ According to NFL statistics, the Jaguars attempted 212 middle rushes in 2011, gaining 4.6 yards per carry. Opponents knew that Jacksonville was going to run up the gut but still struggled to stop it. That reflects well on RB Maurice Jones-Drew, of course, but it also says something about Meester, their longtime starting center.



MAURKICE POUNCEY

SPORTPICS

BEST OF THE REST

11 **MIKE POUNCEY** MIAMI DOLPHINS **3.25** |U|
12 **JOHN SULLIVAN** MINNESOTA VIKINGS **3.20**
13 **J.D. WALTON** DENVER BRONCOS **3.20**
14 **KYLE COOK** CINCINNATI BENGALS **3.10**
15 **JONATHAN GOODWIN** SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS **3.00**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

PHIL COSTA DALLAS COWBOYS
RODNEY HUDSON KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
JASON KELCE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
STEFEN WISNIEWSKI OAKLAND RAIDERS

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

1 JAHRI EVANS
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Evans is strong and athletic. He's an excellent pass protector — he allowed just one sack in 2011, and he has never allowed more than two in any of his six regular-season campaigns with the Saints, according to STATS LLC. What's more, the Saints ran frequently, and well, behind right guard a season ago.

2 CARL NICKS
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Nicks, who played at a very high level with the Saints in 2011, signed with Tampa Bay in free agency. Big, agile and strong, Nicks can win multiple ways along the line of scrimmage. He is very good in the running game, as well as in pass protection.

3 DAVIN JOSEPH
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ The Buccaneers' right guard, Joseph (6-3, 313) is quick off the ball and to the second level. Moreover, he has ideal size for the position, and he is adept at both run and pass blocking. The Joseph-Carl Nicks guard tandem in Tampa Bay will be fun to watch.

4 LOGAN MANKINS
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Mankins' toughness and physicality are assets, and he has become a stalwart for one of the NFL's top offenses. However, from a numbers perspective, 2011 wasn't one of his top seasons, as he allowed a career-high 5.5 sacks, per STATS LLC.

5 CHRIS SNEE
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Snee moves well and is solid in pass protection. In a conference loaded with quality guards, the 30-year-old Boston College product has been one of the best for a number of years.

JAHRI EVANS
SPORTPICS

6 BEN GRUBBS
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **3.60**

■ Grubbs will replace the departed Carl Nicks at left guard in New Orleans, and he should be a capable replacement. Grubbs, who earned Pro Bowl honors for the first time in 2011, has good athleticism and a well-rounded game.

7 MARSHAL YANDA
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ **3.60**

■ With Ben Grubbs no longer in Baltimore, Yanda, a first-time Pro Bowler a season ago, is clearly the Ravens' top interior lineman. He gets off the ball quickly and is capable of throwing multiple key blocks in succession.

8 BRIAN WATERS
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **3.45** |D|

■ The 35-year-old Waters fit right in with New England, starting all 16 games in his first season with the Patriots in 2011. No New England lineman may have been more consistent. Waters still moves well.

9 EVAN MATHIS
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ **3.45**

■ Mathis impressed in his first season in Philadelphia. Per STATS LLC, he did not allow a single sack in 15 starts. Also, he played a key role in the Eagles' success running to the left side. He moves well.

10 JOSH SITTON
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **3.35**

■ The physical Sitton dealt with knee issues in 2011 but still played well. The Packers' starting right guard pass-protected well (two sacks allowed, per STATS LLC) and was solid in run blocking, too. Green Bay ran more toward the right than the left a season ago.

BEST OF THE REST

11 **MIKE IUPATI** SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS **3.35** |U|
12 **STEVE HUTCHINSON** TENNESSEE TITANS **3.35** |D|
13 **BRANDON MOORE** NEW YORK JETS **3.30** |D|
14 **MIKE BRISIEL** OAKLAND RAIDERS **3.20**
15 **UCHE NWANERI** JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS **3.20**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

ZANE BEADLES DENVER BRONCOS
JASON PINKSTON CLEVELAND BROWNS
DANNY WATKINS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

1 JOE THOMAS
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ **4.10**

■ Thomas is consistently outstanding. In five NFL seasons, he has never missed an offensive snap, according to Browns statistics. He is a very good run blocker, and he is wonderful in pass protection, too. The athletic Wisconsin product has played at a Pro Bowl level throughout his pro career.

2 D'BRICKASHAW FERGUSON
NEW YORK JETS

GRADE ▸ **4.05**

■ Ferguson garnered starting honors on the AFC Pro Bowl squad last season. His pass blocking is regarded as a strength. He is big, athletic and long and can be tough for pass rushers to beat around the edge. He gets high marks for his durability — he has started every regular-season game in his six-year career.

3 JAKE LONG
MIAMI DOLPHINS

GRADE ▸ **4.00** |X|

■ The No. 1 overall pick in the 2008 draft, Long is an upper-echelon blind-side protector, but he struggled somewhat early last season. He dealt with knee, shoulder, back and biceps injuries in 2011 and missed games (two) for the first time in his NFL career. If he can stay healthy, a return to his best form is certainly possible.

4 RYAN CLADY
DENVER BRONCOS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Clady has prototypical size, length and athleticism for the OLT position and ranks among the best blind-side protectors in the game. There's some sentiment that Denver's move to a more passing-based scheme with QB Peyton Manning under center will help him.

5 JORDAN GROSS
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Gross played at a high level in 2011. He allowed just 3.5 sacks in 15 starts, according to STATS LLC, and the Panthers ran frequently and well off the left side. Gross moves well, which shows up in his run and pass blocking.

6 MICHAEL ROOS
TENNESSEE TITANS

GRADE ▸ **3.85**

■ Roos comes off a fine season. He allowed just two sacks, per STATS LLC, and he showed improvement over the previous season. He's one of several standout left tackles in a conference teeming with quality at the position.

7 JOE STALEY
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Staley has excellent athleti-

cism. He can quickly get to the second level — recall him pulling and throwing a key block on Alex Smith's TD run in the divisional-round win vs. New Orleans. The key for Staley is durability; he had missed seven games in both 2009 and '10 before playing the full slate a season ago.

8 ANDREW WHITWORTH
CINCINNATI BENGALS

GRADE ▸ **3.55**

■ Strong, tough and technically sound, Whitworth is very good in pass protection. His long arms and hand strength are assets. He's an above-average starter.

9 DUANE BROWN
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ **3.55**

■ Brown has shown remarkable improvement since entering the NFL in 2008, and some feel he was the Texans' best lineman last season. Once regarded as a Draft Day reach, the 6-4, 320-pound Brown has become the player Houston had hoped he would.

10 JERMON BUSHROD
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **3.40**

■ Bushrod earned Pro Bowl honors in 2011, holding his own in pass protection (three sacks allowed, according to STATS LLC) and in the running game, as New Orleans thrived rushing off the left side.

11 RUSSELL OKUNG
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

GRADE ▸ **3.40** | U |

■ The 6-5, 310-pound Okung has shown major potential in his first two NFL seasons. He's also had a bad run of injuries, missing 10 games in that span. Clearly one of the up-and-comers at this position.

12 TYRON SMITH
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **3.40** | UU |

■ The 6-5, 311-pound Smith has a very bright future. He started his first NFL game at age 20 and will not turn 22 until December. He will move to left tackle this season, and how he handles the transition bears watching. So does whether he can build on the promise he showed as a rookie. But he's on the right track.

13 TODD HERREMANS
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ **3.40**

■ Offers unique positional versatility — can play guard, and he can also slide to left tackle if needed. Does a good job protecting Michael Vick's blind side and is also solid in the run game.

14 BRANDEN ALBERT
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **3.40**

■ Albert merits mention here for a couple of reasons: The Chiefs were very good running off the left side, and he allowed just five sacks, per STATS LLC. One negative: He committed six false-start and three holding penalties.

15 JARED VELDHEER
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ **3.35** | U |

■ The numbers suggest Veldheer is a player on the rise. He allowed but four sacks in 2011, according to STATS LLC figures. Also, the Raiders were strong running to the left. If Veldheer becomes more consistent, look out.

BEST OF THE REST

16	**MICHAEL OHER** BALTIMORE RAVENS	3.35
17	**DAVID STEWART** TENNESSEE TITANS	3.35
18	**ERIC WINSTON** KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	3.35
19	**TYSON CLABO** ATLANTA FALCONS	3.30
20	**DONALD PENN** TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	3.30

NOT RATED DUE TO INJURY

JASON PETERS
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

BRYAN BULAGA
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GABE CARIMI
CHICAGO BEARS

ANTHONY CASTONZO
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

ORLANDO FRANKLIN
DENVER BRONCOS

MARCUS GILBERT
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

RODGER SAFFOLD
ST. LOUIS RAMS

NATE SOLDER
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

TRENT WILLIAMS
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1 JARED ALLEN
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

GRADE ▸ **4.25**

■ Fun fact: Allen has 32 sacks in his last 25 games, with 22 coming in 16 starts last season. Quick, strong and relentless, Allen can overmatch his opponent like few defensive ends in the game. You do not want to have to deal with him in an obvious pass-rush situation with the home crowd making it hard for the offense to communicate.

2 JULIUS PEPPERS
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **4.20**

■ The 6-7, 287-pound Peppers can beat the opposition with speed, and he can beat it with power. Despite dealing with a knee injury a season ago, he played in all 16 games and notched 11 sacks. He has been as good as advertised for the Bears.

3 JUSTIN TUCK
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **4.05**

■ Tuck battled a laundry list of injuries in 2011 and was limited to just 12 regular-season games. However, he started to hit his stride late in the season, and when the Giants needed him most, he delivered. He had 1.5 sacks in the NFC title game win at San Francisco and then starred again on the game's biggest stage, sacking Patriots QB Tom Brady twice in New York's Super Bowl XLVI win. What's more, his pressure forced Brady to take a safety early in the game. Whether lined up on the edge or inside, he is a force to be reckoned with.

4 JASON PIERRE-PAUL
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **4.05** | UU |

■ What an exciting prospect! Pierre-Paul is just so athletic and relentless. In his first season as a starter, he notched 16.5 sacks and recorded 86 tackles — uncommon numbers for a defensive end, to say the least. And then there's this: Pierre-Paul is

JARED ALLEN

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Be a part of Pro Football Weekly's coverage of the NFL by reading our frequent posts and participating in discussions with other like-minded football fans.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON FACEBOOK

http://www.Facebook.com/ProFootballWeekly

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

http://www.Twitter.com/ProFootballWkly

only 23 years old.

5 TRENT COLE
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ 4.05

■ Tough, strong, relentless and consistently productive (four seasons of 10-plus sacks), Cole is one of the NFC's premier pass-rush threats. Like teammate Jason Babin, Cole is such a good fit in the Eagles' wide-9 front.

6 JUSTIN SMITH
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ 3.90

■ Smith's effort defines his game. He has the strength, athleticism and desire to line up anywhere on the line and be successful. He's a challenging matchup for tackles and guards alike. Signed from Cincinnati, Smith ranks as one of the better free-agent additions in recent memory.

7 MARIO WILLIAMS
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ 3.85 |X|

■ Williams will play defensive end in the Bills' 4-3 scheme after playing outside linebacker in Houston's "30" front a season ago. When healthy, the 6-6, 283-pound Williams is a premier edge rusher, possessing eye-opening athleticism to go along with his ideal size for the position. The primary concern with Williams is durability. He missed 11 regular-season games in 2011 with a pectoral injury and was bothered by a sports hernia the previous season.

8 JASON BABIN
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ 3.85

■ You don't see many edge rushers become stars at age 30 and beyond, but the 32-year-old Babin's last two seasons have been his best. Quick, and possessing an excellent motor, Babin has thrived working with the respected DL coach Jim Washburn at stops in Tennessee and Philadelphia.

9 CLIFF AVRIL
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ 3.65

■ Avril, the Lions' left end, has become one of their key defensive players. He has the speed needed to quickly make an end-run around the right tackle, and he is adept at the strip-sack (six forced fumbles in 2011). He plays hard and certainly benefits from the players around him, but his production is nonetheless impressive.

10 CALAIS CAMPBELL
ARIZONA CARDINALS

GRADE ▸ 3.65

■ The 6-8, 300-pound Campbell is one of the top pass-rush threats playing in a 3-4 scheme. Campbell, who has recorded 21 sacks the last three seasons, has ideal size for an end and also moves well. That the Cardinals gave Campbell the franchise tag signals what they see in the Miami (Fla.) product, who turns 26 on Sept. 1

11 OSI UMENYIORA
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ 3.60

■ Limited to nine games because of knee and ankle injuries in 2011, Umenyiora still notched nine sacks. He closes quickly on the quarterback, to say the least. The Giants simply have an embarrassment of riches at defensive end. His durability is a concern.

12 ELVIS DUMERVIL
DENVER BRONCOS

GRADE ▸ 3.55

■ Big-time pass rushers come in all shapes and sizes. The 5-11, 260-pound Dumervil has very good speed and knows how to finish. Teams worried about stopping Broncos OLB Von Miller had better not forget about Dumervil.

13 CHRIS LONG
ST. LOUIS RAMS

GRADE ▸ 3.50

■ The No. 2 overall pick in the 2008 draft, Long has very much stepped up his game the last two seasons. In 2011, Long notched a career-best 13 sacks, continuing a pattern of pass-rush improvement that he's shown throughout his career. He has a nice variety of moves and can beat his man with speed or power, inside or outside. His motor runs high.

14 CHARLES JOHNSON
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ 3.50

■ Johnson (6-2, 275) has good quickness and stays low. He notched nine sacks a season ago and has 20.5 in the last two seasons. If Carolina starts winning more games, it will be interesting to see how many more sacks he can put up as clubs get forced into more obvious pass-rush situations.

15 CHRIS CLEMONS
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

GRADE ▸ 3.40

■ In some ways, Clemons' career path is similar to that of Jason Babin. Like Babin, Clemons (6-3, 254) has found NFL success relatively late in his career. Clemons, who has recorded 11 sacks in each of the past two seasons, gives very good effort. Exceptionally tough and competitive.

16 KAMERION WIMBLEY
TENNESSEE TITANS

GRADE ▸ 3.40

■ When the Raiders released Wimbley for salary-related reasons, the Titans wasted little time signing him to bolster their struggling pass rush. He is an above-average starter who can win with speed and power. He quickly gets off the ball, bends well and can turn the corner.

17 J.J. WATT
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ 3.40 |U|

■ Watt produced in his first regular season as a professional, notching 56 tackles and 5.5 sacks. That would have been a promising enough start for the Wisconsin product, but Watt was even better in the postseason. In the wild-card win vs. Cincinnati, he had a leaping interception for a touchdown. In the divisional-round defeat at Baltimore, he recorded 12 tackles and 2.5 sacks. Strong, athletic and relentless, Watt has

HALOTI NGATA

uncommon playmaking ability for a 3-4 end.

18 ANTONIO SMITH
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ **3.35**

■ Smith posted a career-best 6.5 sacks in 2011. He is a skilled, versatile lineman capable of creating matchup problems.

19 JOHN ABRAHAM
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ **3.35** |D|

■ Abraham can still bring some heat off the edge. He remains quick, and he has loads of experience. He can be tough on tackles who struggle in pass protection, and his 36 career forced fumbles attest to his ability to cause mayhem.

20 BRETT KEISEL
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **3.30**

■ The athletic Keisel helps the Steelers remain consistently stout vs. the run, and he has some playmaking ability, too. Note that he's defended 13 passes, recorded six sacks and forced four fumbles over the last two seasons. His toughness is an asset.

BEST OF THE REST

21 **JEREMY MINCEY** JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS **3.30**
22 **JABAAL SHEARD** CLEVELAND BROWNS **3.25** |U|
23 **RED BRYANT** SEATTLE SEAHAWKS **3.25**
24 **KYLE VANDEN BOSCH** DETROIT LIONS **3.10**
25 **RAY McDONALD** SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS **3.10**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

DA'QUAN BOWERS TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
ADRIAN CLAYBORN TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
CARLOS DUNLAP CINCINNATI BENGALS
GREG HARDY CAROLINA PANTHERS
CAMERON JORDAN NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
COREY LIUGET SAN DIEGO CHARGERS
PERNELL McPHEE BALTIMORE RAVENS
JARED ODRICK MIAMI DOLPHINS
ROBERT QUINN ST. LOUIS RAMS

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1 HALOTI NGATA
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ **4.15**

■ Ngata (6-4, 330) has rare movement ability for his size and has the ability to alter games. Though he dealt with a thigh injury for much of last season, he still posted 64 tackles and five sacks. Respected and hardworking, the 28-year-old Ngata is a star in the prime of his career.

2 VINCE WILFORK
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **4.05**

■ The 2011 season was one of Wilfork's best. He notched 52 tackles, posted a career-best 3.5 sacks and intercepted the first two passes of his NFL career. What's more, he was wonderful in the postseason, particularly in the AFC title game win vs. Baltimore, when the Ravens had a nightmare of a time stopping him. Wilfork's strength, size and movement ability make him tough to block.

3 NDAMUKONG SUH
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ **3.85** |U|

■ Suh was second in these rankings in 2011, and some thought was given as to whether that was too low, frankly. After all, Suh had a wonderful rookie season, notching 66 tackles and 10 sacks, and if he improved from that — well, wouldn't that be tough for the teams of the NFC North to handle? You know the rest of the story — Suh struggled last season, not coming close to his rookie-year production. His potential is vast, but he surely has something to prove after a rather disappointing campaign.

4 B.J. RAJI
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **3.80**

■ Raji wasn't quite the difference maker in 2011 that he was in 2010, recording 22 tackles and three sacks in '11 compared to 39 tackles and 6.5 sacks the previous year. The 6-2, 337-pound Raji can be a force in the middle, and considering he will be only 26 at the start of the season, the best could be yet to come for him.

5 DARNELL DOCKETT
ARIZONA CARDINALS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Athletic, strong and explosive, Dockett can be exceptionally disruptive. He has above-average pass-rush ability for his position and can be very difficult for guards to handle. He is one of the standouts on a Cardinals defense that really started to get into good form as last season progressed.

6 RICHARD SEYMOUR
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ **3.70** |D|

■ Seymour, who had a pair of two-sack games a season ago, still ranks as one of the NFL's more disruptive defensive tackles when at his best. However, he had one sack after Week Five in 2011, and he committed 11 penalties.

7 AHTYBA RUBIN
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ **3.65**

■ Rubin is a big, strong, high-motor interior lineman who has played well both in 3-4 and 4-3 schemes for Cleveland. His hardworking style is his calling card; he has racked up better than 80 tackles in each of his two seasons as a starter, an excellent total for a defensive lineman.

8 PAUL SOLIAI
MIAMI DOLPHINS

GRADE ▸ **3.60**

■ Soliai is one of the keys to the Dolphins' solid interior run defense. The 6-4, 355-pound Soliai does not fill up the stat sheet, but he has established himself as one of the better interior linemen in the AFC.

9 GENO ATKINS
CINCINNATI BENGALS

GRADE ▸ **3.55** |U|

■ An excellent pass rusher, Atkins had one sack in eight different games in 2011, including the postseason. He also showed improvement as a run defender. In the end, he earned his first Pro Bowl berth, and he's making his mark as one of the rising stars at his position.

10 CULLEN JENKINS
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ **3.55**

■ Jenkins is surely one of the better interior rushers in the game, a strong fit in Philadelphia's scheme, which wants its linemen quickly getting up the field. His quickness and strength can give guards fits. However, while Jenkins started fast a season ago, notching five sacks in his first five games, he had just a half-sack in his final 10 games.

11 SIONE POUHA
NEW YORK JETS

GRADE ▸ **3.55**

■ Pouha has emerged as one of the game's better nose tackles. Opponents averaged just 2.93 yards per middle rush in 2011, second-worst in the NFL. Not surprisingly, the Jets re-signed him in the offseason. He plays a key role for a very good defense.

12 JAY RATLIFF
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ Ratliff has above-average rush ability for a nose tackle in a 3-4 scheme, and though his sack totals have declined in recent years, he can still provide a good deal of gut pressure.

13 DOMATA PEKO
CINCINNATI BENGALS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ Peko is a stout presence in the middle of the Bengals' line. He comes off one of his better seasons in 2011 (66 tackles, 2.5 sacks). His size makes him a tough matchup for smaller centers, and he disengages from blocks quite well.

14 KEVIN WILLIAMS
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

GRADE ▸ **3.50** |D|

■ The 6-5, 311-pound Williams remains a force in the middle. He finished the season in very good form, recording a sack in five of his last six games.

15 MARCELL DAREUS
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ **3.40** |UU|

■ Dareus will move inside in the Bills' 4-3 scheme after playing end in a 3-4 as a rookie. He has tremendous size (6-3, 340), moves well and is capable of some monster performances, as evidenced by his 2.5-sack game vs. Washington in his first NFL season. He's a player to watch.

16 TOMMY KELLY
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ **3.30**

■ Kelly ranks among the NFL's most productive interior rushers. His 7.5 sacks a season ago were a career high. Also of note: He defended five passes in 2011, and he also forced a pair of fumbles.

17 KYLE WILLIAMS
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ **3.30** |X|

■ Limited to just five games after suffering a foot injury, Williams will team with Marcell Dareus to give the Bills one of the NFL's more intriguing interior tandems. In 2009-10, Williams notched 143 tackles and 9.5 sacks; if he returns to that form, the Bills' defensive line will be all the more formidable.

18 BRANDON MEBANE
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

GRADE ▸ **3.25**

■ Mebane recorded a career-best 56 tackles playing along the interior of a stout Seattle defensive line. Though he didn't record a sack a season ago, he does have some pass-rush ability.

19 PHIL TAYLOR
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ **3.20** |U|

■ It might have been overlooked somewhat with the Browns struggling in 2011, but Taylor had a promising first NFL season, recording 59 tackles and four sacks. The 6-3, 335-pound Taylor flashed some pass-rush ability and could be a very good run stuffer for many years to come. The Taylor-Ahtyba Rubin tandem in the middle is something the Browns can build around.

20 CHRIS CANTY
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **3.20**

■ Canty had a solid season for New York, starting all 16 games and recording 47 tackles. He isn't known for his pass-rush ability, but he made a nice impact in this area late in the season with three sacks in his final four games. Another key member of a deep Giants defensive line.

BEST OF THE REST

21 **HENRY MELTON** CHICAGO BEARS **3.15**
22 **TYSON ALUALU** JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS **3.15**
23 **KENDALL LANGFORD** ST. LOUIS RAMS **3.15**
24 **JASON JONES** SEATTLE SEAHAWKS **3.10**
25 **CASEY HAMPTON** PITTSBURGH STEELERS **3.10** |X|

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

JURRELL CASEY
TENNESSEE TITANS

KENRICK ELLIS
NEW YORK JETS

NICK FAIRLEY
DETROIT LIONS

LINVAL JOSEPH
NEW YORK GIANTS

KARL KLUG
TENNESSEE TITANS

COREY PETERS
ATLANTA FALCONS

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1 PATRICK WILLIS
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ 4.10

■ Willis still must be considered one of the NFL's defensive difference makers. Fast, instinctive and physical, Willis had a career-high four forced fumbles in 2011. As the talent on San Francisco's defense has markedly improved, Willis' numbers have slid somewhat, but he remains an essential part of one of the NFL's top stop units.

2 DERRICK JOHNSON
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ 3.90

■ Johnson's athleticism stands out. He is adept at slipping blocks and closing quickly on ballcarriers. He is very good vs. the pass, and his last two seasons have been his best as a pro. Here's a case where a club has been rewarded for sticking with a player.

3 BRIAN CUSHING
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ 3.90

■ Cushing has thrived both outside in a 4-3 scheme and inside in a 3-4. He is physical vs. the run, brings some pass-rush ability and defends the pass well, too. He was certainly one of the keys to the Texans' defensive turnaround a season ago.

4 DAVID HARRIS
NEW YORK JETS

GRADE ▸ 3.80

■ Harris can fill up the stat sheet, as evidenced by his five sacks and four interceptions a season ago. Smart, tough and physical, Harris has a strong all-around game. An acrobatic, one-handed interception vs. the Giants in Week 16 was a play no ordinary linebacker could make.

5 RAY LEWIS
BALTIMORE RAVENS

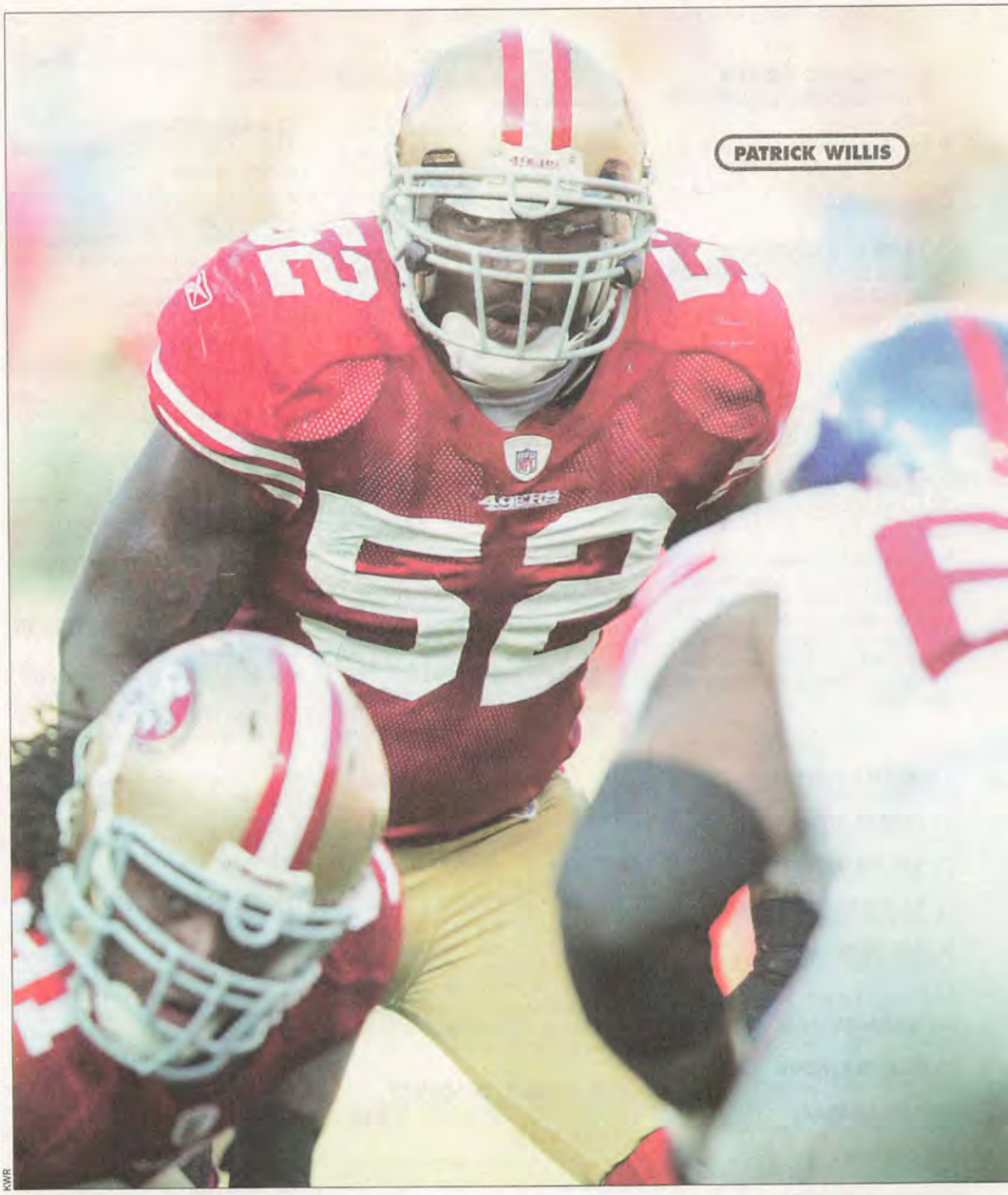
GRADE ▸ 3.80

■ The future Hall of Famer provides an experienced, physical, instinctive and intimidating presence in the middle of the Ravens' defense. Exceptional work habits and gifts have allowed him to thrive well into his 30s.

6 NaVORRO BOWMAN
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ 3.75

■ Bowman flourished in his first season as a starter in 2011, leading San Francisco in tackles (143, with 111 solos). Bowman gets off blocks well and powers through ballcarriers. His quickness and instincts are assets, too. His emergence helped take San Francisco's defense to another level a season ago.



KWR

7 JEROD MAYO
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ 3.65

■ Bothered by a knee injury in October, Mayo was quite productive down the stretch for New England. In his final eight games, including the postseason, Mayo recorded 71 tackles, defended five passes and hauled in two interceptions. Such all-around ability stamps him as one of the best at his position.

8 LONDON FLETCHER
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

GRADE ▸ 3.55

■ Fletcher has been machine-like in his reliability and productivity. He has never missed a game, and he annually has ranked among the tackle leaders. Incredibly, he posted 166 tackles in 2011, the most he has accumulated in any of his 14 NFL seasons. Moreover, he forced three fumbles and intercepted a pair of passes.

9 BRIAN URLACHER
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ 3.55

■ Urlacher still runs very well. That speed shows up when he's closing on ballcarriers and wide receivers alike. Need a linebacker to drop quickly and fluidly into coverage? Urlacher remains a top performer vs. the pass.

10 JON BEASON
CAROLINA PANTHERS

GRADE ▸ 3.55

■ A torn ACL limited Beason to just one game a season ago. In his previous four seasons, he had established himself as one of the NFC's more productive and disruptive linebackers.

11 D'QWELL JACKSON
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ 3.55

■ Jackson, who led the Browns with 158 tackles a season ago, fits best in the middle of the 4-3 as he showed in 2011. He diagnoses plays very well and can blow up running plays all over the field if he gets a free run. His durability is something of a concern — he's on the small side for his position, and he missed most of the 2009 and 2010 seasons with pectoral injuries.

12 DeMECO RYANS
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ 3.50

■ The Eagles are banking that a return to the MLB spot in a 4-3 defense will help Ryans return to form. He notched just 64 tackles

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

a season ago in Houston's 3-4 scheme. When Houston employed the "40" front, Ryans thrived. Tough and instinctive, he may have needed this change of scenery.

13 JAMES LAURINAITIS
ST. LOUIS RAMS

GRADE ▸ **3.45**

■ Laurinaitis gets high marks for dependability, productivity, athleticism and intelligence. He has never missed a start, and he has accumulated better than 100 tackles in each of his first three NFL seasons. However, there's some sentiment that he does not get off blocks well.

14 CURTIS LOFTON
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **3.45**

■ Lofton, who notched a career-high 147 tackles in 2011, left the Falcons for division-rival New Orleans. Turning 26 in June, he strengthens a defense that ranked 27th in yards allowed per play a season ago and faltered in the divisional-round loss at San Francisco.

15 STEPHEN TULLOCH
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ **3.35**

■ Tulloch garnered a new five-year contract from Detroit after a solid first season with the Lions. The well-rounded Tulloch has made himself into one of the game's better inside linebackers.

BEST OF THE REST

16 **LAWRENCE TIMMONS** PITTSBURGH STEELERS **3.35**

17 **SEAN LEE** DALLAS COWBOYS **3.30**

18 **PAUL POSLUSZNY** JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS **3.25**

19 **KARLOS DANSBY** MIAMI DOLPHINS **3.25**

20 **DAVID HAWTHORNE** SEATTLE SEAHAWKS **3.20**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

ROLANDO McCLAIN OAKLAND RAIDERS

COLIN McCARTHY TENNESSEE TITANS

KELVIN SHEPPARD BUFFALO BILLS

DARYL WASHINGTON ARIZONA CARDINALS

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

1 DeMARCUS WARE
DALLAS COWBOYS

GRADE ▸ **4.50**

■ No outside linebacker is a better pass-rush threat than Ware, who has notched 11 sacks or more in six consecutive seasons and is one half-sack away from 100 for his career. In an era where passing has increased — and many top QBs are adept at avoiding sacks — Ware's production is so very valuable, and remarkable. Note that 9.5 of his 19.5 sacks a season ago were against division competition.

2 TERRELL SUGGS
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ **4.15**

■ Strong, athletic and explosive, Suggs earned 2011 Defensive Player of the Year honors from Pro Football Weekly. He fits the blue-chip definition to a T — time and again, he has come up big in big games. However, he suffered a serious Achilles injury during a spring workout and will be sidelined until midseason — at the earliest.

3 CLAY MATTHEWS
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **4.10**

■ While Matthews notched a career-low six sacks in 2011, he remains one of the top rush linebackers in the game. Moreover, he is a very good all-around player. He intercepted three passes a season ago, returning one for a score.

4 TAMBA HALI
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ Hali has been a model of consistency throughout his career, and his last two seasons have been especially impressive. Powerful and hardworking, Hali recorded a dozen sacks in 2011 and 25 QB hits.

5 BRIAN ORAKPO
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ The 6-4, 260-pound Orakpo can generate considerable power off the edge. With Orakpo and Ryan Kerrigan both above-average pass-rush threats in the early stages of their careers, the Redskins are in very good shape at outside linebacker.

6 LaMARR WOODLEY
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **3.90**

■ Woodley's pass-rush ability is his greatest attribute. In just 10 games a season ago, he notched nine sacks, with four multi-sack performances. He is stout vs. the run, and he can overpower an opponent between him and the quarterback.

7 ROBERT MATHIS
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

GRADE ▸ **3.90**

■ Mathis, like teammate Dwight Freeney, will play outside linebacker in Indianapolis' new 3-4 scheme after years as a 4-3 defensive end. While this will be a transition for Mathis, it's one Indianapolis believes he can handle. His pass-rush ability is unquestioned, and that's one major job qualification.

8 VON MILLER
DENVER BRONCOS

GRADE ▸ **3.85** | UU |

■ The No. 2 overall pick in the 2011 draft immediately established him-

self as one of the top performers at his position with a wonderful rookie season. Miller notched 64 tackles (50 solos) and recorded a team-best 11.5 sacks. The 6-3, 245-pound Texas A&M product is explosive and can present a world of problems for bigger, slow-footed tackles.

9 DWIGHT FREENEY
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

GRADE ▸ 3.85 | D |

■ There was some thought that Freeney could be on the trading block, as the feeling is that he is best in a 4-3 scheme, but the Colts have kept him and will play him at outside linebacker in a 3-4 scheme. Freeney would be an edge-rushing threat no matter the scheme; it's how he fares in the other aspects of the defense that bears watching. The same can be said for teammate Robert Mathis.

10 JAMES HARRISON
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ 3.75 | D |

■ Harrison, like teammate LaMarr Woodley, was limited by injury a season ago, and he missed one game because of suspension. Yet, he produced when he was in the lineup, recording nine sacks in 11 games. There's no doubt Harrison can be a force when he's at his best; the question is, at age 34, how long can he continue to be a difference maker?

11 LANCE BRIGGS
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ 3.75 | D |

■ Briggs has long been one of the game's top outside linebackers in a 4-3 scheme. He is stout vs. the run, and he is also solid in coverage. Here is one of the game's most dependable defenders.

DARRELLE REVIS

12 ALDON SMITH
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ 3.70 | UU |

■ Smith (6-4, 258) is long, quick and agile — already a pass-rushing force to be respected. The 49ers, as the Ravens did with Terrell Suggs years ago, brought Smith along somewhat slowly as a rookie, bringing him off the bench, and he thrived in the part-time role, recording 14 sacks. A starting role awaits him in 2012.

13 CAMERON WAKE
MIAMI DOLPHINS

GRADE ▸ 3.65

■ Two seasons ago, Wake notched 14 sacks, testament to his pass-rush ability. He is quick and powerful and knows how to use leverage to his advantage. Thus far, the former CFL star has made the most of his NFL shot, to say the least.

14 CHAD GREENWAY
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

GRADE ▸ 3.55

■ Greenway is one of the stalwarts on a Vikings defense that struggled a season ago but still has some solid veteran talent. He runs very well, and he's a good bet to rank among the tackle leaders at his position over a full season.

15 SEAN WEATHERSPOON
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ 3.50 | U |

■ Weatherspoon has a bright future. He's ideally suited to thrive in these pass-happy times, as he has the speed to stay with tight ends. That speed makes him a strong run defender, too — he can shoot the gap and get into the backfield in a snap. He's an ascending player.

BEST OF THE REST

16 **CONNOR BARWIN** HOUSTON TEXANS 3.45 | U |
17 **DARYL SMITH** JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS 3.35
18 **RYAN KERRIGAN** WASHINGTON REDSKINS 3.35 | U |
19 **ANTHONY SPENCER** DALLAS COWBOYS 3.25
20 **D.J. WILLIAMS** DENVER BRONCOS 3.20

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

SAM ACHO ARIZONA CARDINALS
AKEEM AYERS TENNESSEE TITANS
JUSTIN HOUSTON KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
KOA MISI MIAMI DOLPHINS
BROOKS REED HOUSTON TEXANS
O'BRIEN SCHOFIELD ARIZONA CARDINALS
MARTEZ WILSON NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
JASON WORILDS PITTSBURGH STEELERS
K.J. WRIGHT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

CORNERBACKS

1 DARRELLE REVIS
NEW YORK JETS

GRADE ▸ 4.50

■ Clearly the top cornerback in the game, and the gap between him and everyone else at this position, based on our criteria, is significant. He has rare cover and ball skills; he can shut down one side of the field. He's physical, too, willing to come up and tackle. He will only be 27 in July, and he has missed but three games in five NFL seasons.

2 CORTLAND FINNEGAN
ST. LOUIS RAMS

GRADE ▸ 4.00

■ Finnegan comes off one of his very best seasons. He will not back down from a challenge, and he can play outside or inside, enhancing his value. Has a chance to be a difference maker and a tone setter in St. Louis for his former Titans head coach, Jeff Fisher.

3 JOHNATHAN JOSEPH
HOUSTON TEXANS

GRADE ▸ 4.00

■ Joseph vaulted up the ranks of the best at his position with a wonderful first season in Houston. He was everything the Texans could have hoped for and then some, playing at a high level and stabilizing a position of tremendous need. He has outstanding coverage skills and has gotten better at hauling in interceptions over the years.

4 NNAMDI ASOMUGHA
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

GRADE ▸ 3.90

■ Asomugha had a somewhat disappointing first season in Philadelphia. An outstanding press-man cornerback, Asomugha is not well-suited for zone or off-man coverage. He could very well bounce back in 2012; at his best, he is a shutdown cornerback. Some believe the Eagles will play more man coverage this season.

5 CHARLES WOODSON
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ 3.90 | D |

■ The Packers' signing of Reggie White has long been hailed as one of the best free-agent acquisitions in NFL history. Well, the Packers' addition of Woodson in 2006 surely ranks as one of the more impactful signings of our time, too. In six seasons in Green Bay, Woodson has intercepted seven passes or more four times. He can play inside or outside.

6 ASANTE SAMUEL
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ 3.75

■ Samuel, who was traded by Philadelphia to Atlanta before the draft, has made his name playing off receivers and coming up with interceptions. His ball skills and

instincts are two of his best traits, but he's not known for his tackling.

7 TRAMON WILLIAMS
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Williams wasn't the force in 2011 that he was the previous season, but his playmaking ability is clear. He fits the Packers' scheme very well. Let's see if he can return to his 2010 level of play this season.

8 CARLOS ROGERS
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **3.70**

■ Rogers had never been the playmaking force that he was in 2011, when he picked off a half-dozen passes for a San Francisco defense that was among the NFL's best. Rogers can cover skilled outside receivers and slot receivers alike. One evaluator suggested that confidence is the key for Rogers.

9 CHAMP BAILEY
DENVER BRONCOS

GRADE ▸ **3.70** |D|

■ Bailey still has the athleticism to cover wide receivers man-to-man on the outside. Possessing top ball skills and years and years of experience, Bailey remains tough to beat.

10 BRANDON FLOWERS
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **3.70**

■ Flowers clearly has a wonderful feel for the game. He plays the ball very well and can bait quarterbacks into big mistakes.

11 BRENT GRIMES
ATLANTA FALCONS

GRADE ▸ **3.65**

■ Grimes has become one of the NFC's better cover cornerbacks in recent seasons. Rather than allowing him to test free agency, the Falcons gave him the franchise tag. His emergence has bolstered the Atlanta secondary.

12 JOE HADEN
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ **3.55** |U|

■ Haden has a world of talent; he's very good in coverage and has exceptional athleticism. Though he didn't pick off a pass in 2011, he had six picks the previous season. Another six-interception season and he could earn his first-ever Pro Bowl bid.

13 AQIB TALIB
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

GRADE ▸ **3.50** |C|

■ Talib has so many good traits for the position. He is big, tough, physical and athletic. He plays the ball well (17 interceptions in four seasons). Clearly, he is no ordinary starting corner. However, off-field issues are a major concern.

14 LARDARIUS WEBB
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ **3.45**

■ Webb made major strides in 2011, showing impressive playmaking ability in a five-interception campaign for the AFC North winners. Quick, instinctive and ballhawking, Webb can pounce if the ball comes out late.

15 CHARLES TILLMAN
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **3.45**

■ Tillman gets high marks for his durability, toughness, tackling and turnover-forcing flair. He has recorded 30 interceptions and 29 forced fumbles in nine NFL seasons.

BEST OF THE REST

16 **IKE TAYLOR** PITTSBURGH STEELERS **3.40** |D|
17 **PATRICK PETERSON** ARIZONA CARDINALS **3.35** |U|
18 **BRANDON CARR** DALLAS COWBOYS **3.35** |D|
19 **BRANDON BROWNER** SEATTLE SEAHAWKS **3.35**
20 **LEON HALL** CINCINNATI BENGALS **3.35** |X|
21 **JASON McCOURTY** TENNESSEE TITANS **3.30**
22 **VONTAE DAVIS** MIAMI DOLPHINS **3.30**
23 **ANTONIO CROMARTIE** NEW YORK JETS **3.30**
24 **COREY WEBSTER** NEW YORK GIANTS **3.30**
25 **DOMINIQUE RODGERS-CROMARTIE** PHILADELPHIA EAGLES **3.20**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

PRINCE AMUKAMARA
NEW YORK GIANTS

CHRIS CULLIVER
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

RICHARD SHERMAN
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

SAM SHIELDS
GREEN BAY PACKERS

JIMMY SMITH
BALTIMORE RAVENS

SAFETIES

1 TROY POLAMALU
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

GRADE ▸ **4.00** |D|

■ Among the playmakers at safety, Polamalu still ranks at the top of the list. He has a complete game — he can be a hammer vs. the run, and he is strong vs. the pass. He can be prone to the bad gamble once in a while, but the positives far, far outweigh the negatives with Polamalu, considering his unique skill set.

2 EARL THOMAS
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

GRADE ▸ **3.90** |U|

■ Just 23, Thomas already has established himself as one of the game's best at his position. While he had just two interceptions in 2011 after making five as a rookie, he nonetheless impressed with his play. He has a chance to be special for a long time.

3 ERIC WEDDLE
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GRADE ▸ **3.85**

■ No safety defended more passes (18) or recorded more interceptions (seven) in 2011 than Weddle, who had a wonderful season for San Diego. He has a well-rounded game — a jack-of-all-trades, one evaluator called him — and he is very steady.

TROY POLAMALU

4 DASHON GOLDSON
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Goldson was exceptional in 2011, intercepting a half-dozen passes in the regular season and adding another pick in the divisional-round win vs. New Orleans. Goldson plays the ball well, but he also has the requisite physicality for his position. The question is: Can he string two elite seasons together?

5 ED REED
BALTIMORE RAVENS

GRADE ▸ **3.75** |D|

■ Reed is in the latter stages of a Hall of Fame career, but it is the foolish quarterback who does not respect his legendary ballhawking abilities. So smart and instinctive, Reed can still make the big play on occasion. Note that he showed up in a big way in the 2011 postseason, defending six passes and

hauling in an interception. That said, Reed's tackling isn't what it was.

6 KAM CHANCELLOR
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

GRADE ▸ **3.65** | U |

■ Chancellor, like teammate Earl Thomas, earned Pro Bowl honors a season ago. He's known for his physicality, but he's also quite good vs. the pass, as evidenced by his 13 passes defended and four interceptions in 2011, his first season as a starter. Yes, you could say the Seahawks are in good shape at safety.

7 MICHAEL GRIFFIN
TENNESSEE TITANS

GRADE ▸ **3.55**

■ With 17 interceptions in five seasons, Griffin's playmaking ability is evident, and his athleticism makes him a good fit in an increasingly pass-happy league. The key for him is consistency. He misses on some makeable plays.

8 ERIC BERRY
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **3.50** | U; X |

■ Berry's 2011 season ended after just one game because of a torn ACL. The previous year, he showed a world of potential, notching 92 tackles, intercepting four passes and starting all 16 games in his first NFL season. Smart and athletic, Berry has a very bright future if he can bounce back from the injury.

9 JAIRUS BYRD
BUFFALO BILLS

GRADE ▸ **3.50**

■ Known for his ballhawking skills, Byrd affects the game in other ways, too. He had a career-best 98 stops in 2011, and he also forced three fumbles. There can be no qualms with how he has produced in his first three NFL seasons.

10 ANTREL ROLLE
NEW YORK GIANTS

GRADE ▸ **3.40**

■ As a converted cornerback, Rolle's versatility is an asset. He's been quite dependable since signing with the Giants, starting every game for a defense that has had its share of injury concerns.

11 ADRIAN WILSON
ARIZONA CARDINALS

GRADE ▸ **3.40** | D |

■ The 6-3, 230-pound Wilson has long stood out for his toughness. Stout vs. the run, Wilson also defended a career-best 14 passes a season ago. However, the feeling is that Wilson, who turns 33 in October, can struggle in space.

12 LaRON LANDRY
NEW YORK JETS

GRADE ▸ **3.35** | X |

■ Landry has a world of talent but comes with a host of durability concerns. He is best close to the line of scrimmage covering the short zones or supporting vs. the run.

13 LOUIS DELMAS
DETROIT LIONS

GRADE ▸ **3.35**

■ Delmas is an integral part of the Lions' secondary, which was not quite the same when he was out of the lineup for the final five regular-season games with a knee injury. He does not lack for talent, but his durability is a concern, and he has not had an interception the last two seasons.

14 MALCOLM JENKINS
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

GRADE ▸ **3.35**

■ Jenkins is yet another former cornerback who has found a home at safety as teams seek better and better coverage skills from their safeties.

15 ANTOINE BETHEA
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

GRADE ▸ **3.35**

■ Bethea notched a career-high 139 tackles in 2011. He has good speed for the position. He is one of the links between the Colts' recent glory days and their present.

BEST OF THE REST

16 **KENNY PHILLIPS** NEW YORK GIANTS **3.30**
17 **RYAN CLARK** PITTSBURGH STEELERS **3.25** | D |
18 **REGGIE NELSON** CINCINNATI BENGALS **3.20**
19 **TYVON BRANCH** OAKLAND RAIDERS **3.20**
20 **GEORGE WILSON** BUFFALO BILLS **3.15**

TOP VETERAN PROSPECTS

NATE ALLEN PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
MORGAN BURNETT GREEN BAY PACKERS
KENDRICK LEWIS KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
AMARI SPIEVEY DETROIT LIONS

NOT RATED DUE TO INJURY

NICK COLLINS FREE AGENT

PLACEKICKERS

1 ROB BIRONAS
TENNESSEE TITANS

GRADE ▸ **3.80**

■ Bironas' consistency and complete game place him atop the rankings. In the last five seasons, Bironas has hit 144-of-162 field goals (88.9 percent). He makes the field goals he is supposed to make, and he is dependable on long kicks, too. He hit 6-of-7 field goals from 50 yards and beyond a season ago.

2 SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Janikowski has the NFL's strongest leg, and he is accurate, too. Three of his four field-goal misses a season ago were from 50 yards and out. After several disappointing seasons, Janikowski has connected on at least 80 percent of his field-goal attempts in each of the last four seasons.

3 DAVID AKERS
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Akers connected on an NFL-record 44 field goals in 2011, including 7-of-9 attempts from 50 yards and beyond. He has become more consistent in recent years, knocking home better than 80 percent of his attempts in the last four seasons.

4 ROBBIE GOULD
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **3.70**

■ Gould has thrived despite playing his home games at Soldier Field, which is no easy place in which to play. Gould is lights-out on shorter kicks and has extended his range as his career has progressed.

5 STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

GRADE ▸ **3.60**

■ Accurate on field goals (84.4 percent career accuracy), Gostkowski boomed a career-high 41 touchbacks on kickoffs in 2011. He has benefited from playing for a club with a stellar offense, which has limited his long-range field-goal attempts.

PUNTERS

1 SHANE LECHLER
OAKLAND RAIDERS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ No punter may have a stronger leg than Lechler. He posted a 50.8-yard gross average in 2011, the second-highest mark of his career. There is no one you would rather have if the situation calls for unleashing a rainmaker deep from your own end of the field.

2 ANDY LEE
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **3.95**

■ Lee had a truly special 2011 season. He led the NFL in gross average (50.9) and posted an incredible 44.0-yard net average. A 40-yard net average is regarded as excellent. What's more, only half of Lee's 78 punts were returned, and opponents gained just 8.1 yards per return.

3 ADAM PODLESH
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Podlesh posted a strong 40.4-yard net average in 2011, with opponents gaining just 5.4 yards per return. Only 41 of his 89 punts were brought back. He's one of the game's more underrated punters.

4 MICHAEL KOENEN
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ The Buccaneers handsomely paid Koenen in free agency last offseason, and he did not disappoint, posting a career-best net average (40.3). He has a complete game.

5 DUSTIN COLQUITT
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Colquitt can throw a blanket over opposing return games. Only 36 of his 89 kicks were returned a season ago, and he ranked fifth in the NFL with 26 fair catches forced.

RETURN SPECIALISTS

1 DEVIN HESTER
CHICAGO BEARS

GRADE ▸ **4.00**

■ With two more punt-return touchdowns in 2011, Hester now holds the all-time record (12). Hester also added the fifth kickoff-return TD of his career. Returning punts is his strength — more than one in five of his career punt returns have gone for 20 yards or longer — but his outstanding speed makes him a threat to go the distance every time he touches the ball. He's a rare playmaking talent.

2 PATRICK PETERSON
ARIZONA CARDINALS

GRADE ▸ **3.85** | UU |

■ Peterson emerged as an upper-echelon returner with an NFL-high four punt-return scores in 2011. Strong, fast and athletic, he can break tackles, leave tacklers behind with a quick move and take it the distance if he sees daylight. As an elite CB prospect, it will be interesting to see how long Peterson continues to pull double duty.

3 TED GINN JR.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GRADE ▸ **3.75**

■ Ginn's excellent speed is his greatest attribute as a returner. Returning kickoffs and punts, Ginn is capable of some truly monster games; twice he has scored on multiple return TDs in the same contest.

4 JOSHUA CRIBBS
CLEVELAND BROWNS

GRADE ▸ **3.60**

■ Cribbs has not been the threat on returns the last two seasons that he was earlier in his career. With the Browns lacking weapons, and his reputation as a return ace preceding him, teams are wary of him. His punt-return score at Baltimore in Week 16 sparked a Cleveland rally, highlighting the risk of giving one of the Browns' few playmakers a chance to work his magic.

5 RANDALL COBB
GREEN BAY PACKERS

GRADE ▸ **3.55** | U |

■ As a rookie, Cobb showed promise as a return man in 2011, taking a kickoff and a punt for scores. Quick and elusive, Cobb has demonstrated a playmaking flair in his brief NFL career.

DRAFT BOARD

Based on the following system: four points for passing TDs, six points for rushing/receiving TDs, plus various yardage bonuses. As of May 7.

QUARTERBACKS

RK. PLAYER/TEAM	BYE
1. Aaron Rodgers / Packers	10
2. Drew Brees / Saints	6
3. Cam Newton / Panthers	6
4. Tom Brady / Patriots	9
5. Matthew Stafford / Lions	5
6. Michael Vick / Eagles	7
7. Eli Manning / Giants	11
8. Robert Griffin III / Redskins	10
9. Philip Rivers / Chargers	7
10. Tony Romo / Cowboys	5
11. Peyton Manning / Broncos	7
12. Matt Ryan / Falcons	7
13. Matt Flynn / Seahawks	11
14. Andrew Luck / Colts	4
15. Jay Cutler / Bears	6
16. Ben Roethlisberger / Steelers	4
17. Josh Freeman / Buccaneers	5
18. Matt Schaub / Texans	8
19. Carson Palmer / Raiders	5
20. Ryan Fitzpatrick / Bills	8
21. Andy Dalton / Bengals	8
22. Mark Sanchez / Jets	9
23. Joe Flacco / Ravens	8
24. Christian Ponder / Vikings	11
25. Alex Smith / 49ers	9
26. Matt Cassel / Chiefs	7
27. Sam Bradford / Rams	9
28. Jake Locker / Titans	11
29. Blaine Gabbert / Jaguars	6
30. Brandon Weeden / Browns	10
31. Kevin Kolb / Cardinals	10
32. Matt Moore / Dolphins	7
33. Tim Tebow / Jets	9
34. Matt Hasselbeck / Titans	11
35. John Skelton / Cardinals	10
36. Ryan Tannehill / Dolphins	7
37. T.J. Yates / Texans	8
38. Joe Webb / Vikings	11
39. Chad Henne / Jaguars	6
40. Colt McCoy / Browns	10
41. Russell Wilson / Seahawks	11
42. Rex Grossman / Redskins	10
43. Shaun Hill / Lions	5
44. Kyle Orton / Cowboys	5
45. Chris Redman / Falcons	7
46. Chase Daniel / Saints	6
47. Brian Hoyer / Patriots	9
48. David Carr / Giants	11
49. Graham Harrell / Packers	10
50. Bruce Gradkowski / Bengals	8

RUNNING BACKS

RK. PLAYER/TEAM	BYE
1. Arian Foster / Texans	8
2. Ray Rice / Ravens	8
3. LeSean McCoy / Eagles	7
4. Maurice Jones-Drew / Jaguars	6
5. Chris Johnson / Titans	11
6. Matt Forté / Bears	6
7. Trent Richardson / Browns	10
8. Ryan Mathews / Chargers	7
9. Michael Turner / Falcons	7
10. Frank Gore / 49ers	9
11. Darren McFadden / Raiders	5
12. Marshawn Lynch / Seahawks	11
13. Fred Jackson / Bills	8
14. Doug Martin / Buccaneers	5
15. Isaac Redman / Steelers	4
16. Steven Jackson / Rams	9
17. Willis McGahee / Broncos	7
18. BenJarvus Green-Ellis / Bengals	8
19. Ahmad Bradshaw / Giants	11
20. Adrian Peterson / Vikings	11
21. DeMarco Murray / Cowboys	5
22. Shonn Greene / Jets	9
23. Stevan Ridley / Patriots	9
24. Roy Helu / Redskins	10
25. Beanie Wells / Cardinals	10
26. C.J. Spiller / Bills	8
27. Toby Gerhart / Vikings	11
28. Peyton Hillis / Chiefs	7
29. Jamaal Charles / Chiefs	7
30. Jonathan Stewart / Panthers	6
31. David Wilson / Giants	11
32. DeAngelo Williams / Panthers	6
33. Reggie Bush / Dolphins	7
34. Darren Sproles / Saints	6
35. Mark Ingram / Saints	6
36. Donald Brown / Colts	4
37. James Starks / Packers	10
38. Michael Bush / Bears	6
39. Evan Royster / Redskins	10
40. Isaiah Pead / Rams	9
41. LeGarrette Blount / Buccaneers	5
42. Mikel Leshoure / Lions	5
43. Taiwan Jones / Raiders	5
44. Pierre Thomas / Saints	6
45. Felix Jones / Cowboys	5
46. Ryan Williams / Cardinals	10
47. Delone Carter / Colts	4
48. Joe McKnight / Jets	9
49. Daniel Thomas / Dolphins	7
50. Kendall Hunter / 49ers	9
51. Ben Tate / Texans	8
52. Rashad Jennings / Jaguars	6
53. Jason Snelling / Falcons	7
54. Bernard Pierce / Ravens	8
55. Rashard Mendenhall / Steelers	4
56. Jahvid Best / Lions	5
57. Robert Turbin / Seahawks	11
58. Ronnie Hillman / Broncos	7
59. Jacquizz Rodgers / Falcons	7
60. Dexter McCluster / Chiefs	7
61. Bernard Scott / Bengals	8
62. Montario Hardesty / Browns	10
63. Lance Ball / Broncos	7
64. Dion Lewis / Eagles	7
65. Kevin Smith / Lions	5
66. Marcel Reece / Raiders	5
67. Shane Vereen / Patriots	9
68. Jonathan Dwyer / Steelers	4
69. Danny Woodhead / Patriots	9
70. Le'Ron McClain / Chargers	7
71. LaMichael James / 49ers	9
72. Michael Smith / Buccaneers	5
73. D.J. Ware / Giants	11
74. Brandon Jackson / Browns	10
75. Javon Ringer / Titans	11
76. Mike Tolbert / Panthers	6
77. Chris Rainey / Steelers	4
78. Brian Leonard / Bengals	8
79. Anthony Allen / Ravens	8
80. Brandon Jacobs / 49ers	9

WIDE RECEIVERS

RK. PLAYER/TEAM	BYE
1. Calvin Johnson / Lions	5
2. Larry Fitzgerald / Cardinals	10
3. Hakeem Nicks / Giants	11
4. Wes Welker / Patriots	9
5. Roddy White / Falcons	7
6. Andre Johnson / Texans	8
7. Mike Wallace / Steelers	4
8. Greg Jennings / Packers	10
9. A.J. Green / Bengals	8
10. Miles Austin / Cowboys	5
11. Victor Cruz / Giants	11
12. Vincent Jackson / Buccaneers	5
13. Marques Colston / Saints	6
14. Jordy Nelson / Packers	10
15. Dwayne Bowe / Chiefs	7
16. Steve Smith / Panthers	6
17. DeSean Jackson / Eagles	7
18. Brandon Marshall / Bears	6
19. Julio Jones / Falcons	7
20. Percy Harvin / Vikings	11
21. Stevie Johnson / Bills	8
22. Robert Meachem / Chargers	7
23. Brandon Lloyd / Patriots	9
24. Kenny Britt / Titans	11
25. Demaryius Thomas / Broncos	7
26. Antonio Brown / Steelers	4
27. Dez Bryant / Cowboys	5
28. Pierre Garcon / Redskins	10
29. Torrey Smith / Ravens	8
30. Darrius Heyward-Bey / Raiders	5
31. Eric Decker / Broncos	7
32. Jeremy Maclin / Eagles	7
33. Santonio Holmes / Jets	9
34. Michael Floyd / Cardinals	10
35. Justin Blackmon / Jaguars	6
36. Anquan Boldin / Ravens	8
37. Denarius Moore / Raiders	5
38. Lance Moore / Saints	6
39. Reggie Wayne / Colts	4
40. Michael Crabtree / 49ers	9
41. Nate Burleson / Lions	5
42. Mike Williams / Buccaneers	5
43. Mario Manningham / 49ers	9
44. Brian Quick / Rams	9
45. Sidney Rice / Seahawks	11
46. Leonard Hankerson / Redskins	10
47. Alshon Jeffery / Bears	6
48. Brian Hartline / Dolphins	7
49. Doug Baldwin / Seahawks	11
50. Randy Moss / 49ers	9
51. James Jones / Packers	10
52. Malcom Floyd / Chargers	7
53. Brandon LaFell / Panthers	6
54. Nate Washington / Titans	11
55. Devery Henderson / Saints	6
56. Laurent Robinson / Jaguars	6
57. Jon Baldwin / Chiefs	7
58. Titus Young / Lions	5
59. Davone Bess / Dolphins	7
60. Stephen Hill / Jets	9
61. Ben Obomanu / Seahawks	11
62. Danny Amendola / Rams	9
63. Greg Little / Browns	10
64. Jacoby Ford / Raiders	5
65. Jabar Gaffney / Patriots	9
66. Kevin Walter / Texans	8
67. Jerome Simpson / Vikings	11
68. Rueben Randle / Giants	11
69. Jordan Shipley / Bengals	8
70. Mohamed Massaquoi / Browns	10
71. Earl Bennett / Bears	6
72. Randall Cobb / Packers	10
73. Kendall Wright / Titans	11
74. David Nelson / Bills	8
75. Jason Avant / Eagles	7
76. Austin Collie / Colts	4
77. Josh Morgan / Redskins	10
78. David Gettis / Panthers	6
79. Emmanuel Sanders / Steelers	4
80. Mike Thomas / Jaguars	6
81. Michael Jenkins / Vikings	11
82. Andre Roberts / Cardinals	10
83. A.J. Jenkins / 49ers	9
84. Donald Jones / Bills	8
85. Steve Breaston / Chiefs	7
86. Andre Caldwell / Broncos	7
87. Nick Toon / Saints	6
88. Santana Moss / Redskins	10
89. Harry Douglas / Falcons	7
90. Tandon Doss / Ravens	8
91. Jeremy Kerley / Jets	9
92. Arrelious Benn / Buccaneers	5
93. Golden Tate / Seahawks	11
94. Mohamed Sanu / Bengals	8
95. Deion Branch / Patriots	9
96. Steve Smith / Rams	9
97. Eddie Royal / Chargers	7
98. Donald Driver / Packers	10
99. Jarius Wright / Vikings	11
100. Riley Cooper / Eagles	7

TIGHT ENDS

RK. PLAYER/TEAM	BYE
1. Rob Gronkowski / Patriots	9
2. Jimmy Graham / Saints	6
3. Vernon Davis / 49ers	9
4. Antonio Gates / Chargers	7
5. Jermichael Finley / Packers	10
6. Jason Witten / Cowboys	5
7. Tony Gonzalez / Falcons	7
8. Brent Celek / Eagles	7
9. Fred Davis / Redskins	10
10. Aaron Hernandez / Patriots	9
11. Greg Olsen / Panthers	6
12. Owen Daniels / Texans	8
13. Kellen Winslow / Buccaneers	5
14. Jared Cook / Titans	11
15. Coby Fleener / Colts	4
16. Dustin Keller / Jets	9
17. Jermaine Gresham / Bengals	8
18. Dennis Pitta / Ravens	8
19. Brandon Pettigrew / Lions	5
20. Tony Moeaki / Chiefs	7
21. Anthony Fasano / Dolphins	7
22. David Ausberry / Raiders	5
23. Jacob Tamme / Broncos	7
24. John Carlson / Vikings	11
25. Ed Dickson / Ravens	8
26. Martellus Bennett / Giants	11
27. Kevin Boss / Chiefs	7
28. Heath Miller / Steelers	4
29. Kellen Davis / Bears	6
30. Marcedes Lewis / Jaguars	6
31. Zach Miller / Seahawks	11
32. Joel Dreessen / Broncos	7
33. Lance Kendricks / Rams	9
34. Ben Watson / Browns	10
35. Evan Moore / Browns	10
36. Michael Egnew / Dolphins	7
37. Julius Thomas / Broncos	7
38. Rob Housler / Cardinals	10
39. Kyle Rudolph / Vikings	11
40. Evan Rodriguez / Bears	6

PLACEKICKERS

RK. PLAYER/TEAM	BYE
1. David Akers / 49ers	9
2. Sebastian Janikowski / Raiders	5
3. Stephen Gostkowski / Patriots	9
4. Alex Henery / Eagles	7
5. Dan Bailey / Cowboys	5
6. Mason Crosby / Packers	10
7. Rob Bironas / Titans	11
8. Matt Bryant / Falcons	7
9. Saints PK	6
10. Panthers PK	6
11. Jason Hanson / Lions	5
12. Chargers PK	7
13. Matt Prater / Broncos	7
14. Randy Bullock / Texans	8
15. Redskins PK	10
16. Dan Carpenter / Dolphins	7
17. Robbie Gould / Bears	6
18. Billy Cundiff / Ravens	8
19. Shaun Suisham / Steelers	4
20. Lawrence Tynes / Giants	11
21. Nick Folk / Jets	9
22. Mike Nugent / Bengals	8
23. Rian Lindell / Bills	8
24. Steven Hauschka / Seahawks	11
25. Jay Feely / Cardinals	10
26. Connor Barth / Buccaneers	5
27. Josh Scobee / Jaguars	6
28. Blair Walsh / Vikings	11
29. Phil Dawson / Browns	10
30. Greg Zuerlein / Rams	9
31. Ryan Succop / Chiefs	7
32. Adam Vinatieri / Colts	4

DEFENSES/ SPECIAL TEAMS

RK. PLAYER/TEAM	BYE
1. San Francisco 49ers	9
2. Philadelphia Eagles	7
3. Detroit Lions	5
4. Baltimore Ravens	8
5. Chicago Bears	6
6. Buffalo Bills	8
7. New York Giants	11
8. Green Bay Packers	10
9. Dallas Cowboys	5
10. Houston Texans	8
11. New York Jets	9
12. Arizona Cardinals	10
13. Denver Broncos	7
14. Seattle Seahawks	11
15. Pittsburgh Steelers	4
16. Cincinnati Bengals	8
17. Miami Dolphins	7
18. New England Patriots	9
19. Minnesota Vikings	11
20. Washington Redskins	10
21. San Diego Chargers	7
22. Atlanta Falcons	7
23. Cleveland Browns	10
24. Oakland Raiders	5
25. Kansas City Chiefs	7
26. Jacksonville Jaguars	6
27. Carolina Panthers	6
28. St. Louis Rams	9
29. New Orleans Saints	6
30. Indianapolis Colts	4
31. Tennessee Titans	11
32. Tampa Bay Buccaneers	5

ProFootballWeekly.com FANTASY COVERAGE ALL SEASON LONG!

NEW ENGLAND Patriots

2012 PREDICTION: 12-4 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 13-3 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

B. BELICHICK

HEAD COACH: Bill Belichick
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Josh McDaniels
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: None
OWNER: Robert Kraft
STADIUM: Gillette Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 68,756
PLAYING SURFACE: Field Turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.patriots.com

It has been a while since the Patriots did not enter an offseason with a bad taste in their mouths. The Pats have quite the memory to ruminate on this summer — Tom Brady's Hail Mary attempt hitting the turf, just missing the outstretched hands of Rob Gronkowski, giving the Giants a victory in Super Bowl XLVI.

Seven seasons have gone by without the Patriots hoisting the Lombardi Trophy, and last year was yet another near-miss. The Pats' offense steamrolled its competition in a similar manner to 2010, but like '10, the defense was the team's downfall, ranking 31st.

The Pats went to work improving the defense this offseason, adding DEs Jonathan Fanene and Trevor Scott and S Steve Gregory in free agency and taking defenders with their first six draft picks, including first-rounders DE Chandler Jones and LB Dont'a Hightower.

New England still has the league's best head coach-quarterback tandem of Bill Belichick and Brady. But Belichick's "defensive genius" has been called into question the past two seasons. On offense, the Patriots hope Brandon Lloyd can be the outside receiving threat they need after Chad Ochocinco didn't pan out, but TEs Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez proved to be pretty difficult to stop in their second seasons.

Brady will be 35 years old when the 2012 season begins, and he has carried the team the past two seasons with a high-powered offensive attack, though it has not resulted in an NFL championship. The defense must get better, and if it does, this remains the team to beat in the AFC.

SPORTPICS

TOM BRADY

OFFENSE

Josh McDaniels returns to Foxborough after stops in Denver and St. Louis, and likely will handle play-calling duties after Bill O'Brien departed for Penn State. The Patriots' spread attack has relied on a short-to-intermediate passing game that sets up the deep ball for Tom Brady. The running backs in the offense need to be pass catchers as well. The system is predicated on Brady's quick decision making in the pocket and utilizes the middle of the field effectively with the league's best tight end tandem.

QUARTERBACKS

Few teams, if any, can confidently go as deep at the quarterback position as the Patriots can. Other teams might have better backups, but the Pats have a two-time MVP, a capable No. 2 and a young, intriguing No. 3. Tom Brady picked up where he left off in his MVP campaign in '10 by throwing for 5,235 yards and 39 touchdowns. He had some interceptions early and played through an elbow injury but maintained his pinpoint accuracy. Brady gets rid of the ball quickly, reads defenses exceptionally well and rarely makes a mistake. He remains one of the league's elite quarterbacks. His backup, Brian Hoyer, could attract attention as a starter next offseason. His only significant playing time has come in the preseason, but the team values him highly. Hoyer is a good decision maker with solid timing and rhythm in his throws. Ryan Mallett is not yet ready to be the team's No. 2,

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

CB Will Allen, DE Jonathan Fanene, WR Jabar Gaffney, OG Robert Gallery, S Steve Gregory, WR Brandon Lloyd, DE Trevor Scott, WR Donté Stallworth.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

DE Mark Anderson, RB BenJarvus Green-Ellis.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Tom Brady

DEFENSIVE MVP
LB Jerod Mayo

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
RB Stevan Ridley

POSITION BATTLE
DE: open competition

T. BRADY J. MAYO

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
A+	C	A-	A	B+	B+	C+	A-

but he remains an interesting piece of the puzzle. He has a very strong arm, but character concerns knocked his draft stock in 2011. He could be trade bait down the line, or the Patriots' future signalcaller.

RUNNING BACKS

The RB carousel gets a new leader after the team did not re-sign BenJarvus Green-Ellis. Stevan Ridley is expected to take the bulk of the carries. An inside runner who broke some big gains as a rookie in 2011, Ridley is versatile with a nice burst and good vision. However, he needs to improve his ball security after late-season fumbles put him in Bill Belichick's doghouse. Danny Woodhead's production took a step back, but he was effective as a receiver in the Super Bowl. He uses his small stature to hide behind tackles and he hits holes hard. Woodhead has great balance and is an effective third-down back as a runner or receiver. The team didn't get to see much from Shane Vereen, who battled a hamstring injury most of his rookie season. The 2011 second-rounder is versatile with some lateral agility and can be a change-of-pace option to Ridley. If veteran Kevin Faulk is healthy, he could be back for a 14th season. As of presstime, though, the Patriots were reportedly expected to sign Joseph Addai, who could be the veteran third-down back. The Patriots added free-agent FBs Spencer Larsen and Tony Fiammetta, and might use lead blockers more often.

RECEIVERS

As effective as the Patriots' wide receivers have been, the team lacks a legitimate deep threat outside. Wes Welker remains Tom Brady's favorite target. A slick route runner with great hands, Welker is one of the best in the game at finding space in the defense to haul in receptions and rack up yards after the catch. He can take a hit and is durable. Brandon Lloyd is expected to be the starter on the outside. He does not have breakaway speed, but he can make impressive catches in the air and along the sideline. Deion Branch has a great rapport with Brady and understands the offense. He is a dependable receiver but is not exceptional and will be 33 years old this season. The Patriots brought back Jabar Gaffney, who was with the team from 2006-08 and has been very productive the past three seasons. Injury-prone ex-Colt Anthony Gonzalez can be another slot option if he is healthy, but that is a big if. Donté Stallworth adds another veteran body who understands the offense, having played for the team in 2007. Chad Ochocinco never made an impact last year. He took a pay cut and will need to show a better grasp of the offense to make the team. TE Rob Gronkowski is a matchup nightmare with his size, great hands and exceptional run-after-the-catch ability. Gronkowski's most underrated skill is probably his run blocking. He rarely misses an offensive snap and is one of the league's most lethal red-zone targets. Aaron Hernandez is versatile and even took some carries late last season. He has the open-field skills of a receiver and the size of a tight end. Ex-Bronco Daniel Fells likely will be used as a blocking tight end on running plays.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This remains one of the league's most consistent OL units, even though it has had its share of lineup shuffling because of injuries. As a rookie, OT Nate Solder showed his athleticism when pulling and impressed as a pass blocker. The former tight end has good size and assumes the blind-side tackle spot after Matt Light's retirement. ORT Sebastian Vollmer battled injuries but he has versatility and is an adept pass blocker. Pro Bowl OLG Logan Mankins is a mauler as a run blocker and showed his toughness playing through a partially torn ACL in the Super Bowl. However, his health will have to be watched closely this season. Pro Bowl ORG Brian Waters was one of the most consistent players up front. He is smart with plenty of experience driving back opposing D-linemen. By re-signing C Dan Koppen, the Patriots brought back Brady's longtime center and close friend. Koppen, who is coming off a broken ankle, is not spectacular but very dependable. The move likely puts Dan Connolly back in a reserve role. The team values Connolly's versatility, and he could return to a starting OG spot should the 35-year-old Waters retire. Connolly had some struggles in pass protection and staying healthy. Former No. 2 overall pick Robert Gallery, who has not played a full season since '08, was added in free agency. When healthy, Gallery can contribute as a guard or tackle with his intelligence and run-blocking skills. Backup C Ryan Wendell is reliable, though undersized. Marcus Cannon was regarded as a first-round talent before being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma prior to the 2011 draft. He is cancer-free and the top reserve tackle.

DEFENSE

Bill Belichick moved to a predominantly 4-3 front last season, but the defense still relied on using multiple fronts and disguises at the line. The unit is strong up the middle at defensive tackle and linebacker, and aggressively moved up in the draft to add Chandler Jones and Dont'a Hightower to help with the pass rush. The pass defense remained one of the league's worst in terms of yards allowed last season.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Vince Wilfork is showing no signs of slowing down. The big man had a Pro Bowl season in 2010 and was even

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Arizona	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Baltimore	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Denver	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Seattle	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 21	New York Jets	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 28	at St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	BYE	
Nov. 11	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	at New York Jets	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	Houston	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	San Francisco	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Miami	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to New England

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 12	At Miami	(-7)	38-24
Sept. 18	San Diego	(-6.5)	35-21
Sept. 25	At Buffalo	(-7)	31-34
Oct. 2	At Oakland	(-6.5)	31-19
Oct. 9	New York Jets	(-7.5)	30-21
Oct. 16	Dallas	(-6.5)	20-16
Oct. 23	BYE		
Oct. 30	At Pittsburgh	(-3)	17-25
Nov. 6	New York Giants	(-9.5)	20-24
Nov. 13	At New York Jets	(+2.5)	37-16
Nov. 21	Kansas City	(-17)	34-3
Nov. 27	At Philadelphia	(-3)	38-20
Dec. 4	Indianapolis	(-20.5)	31-24
Dec. 11	At Washington	(-7.5)	34-27
Dec. 18	At Denver	(-7)	41-23
Dec. 24	Miami	(-7)	27-24
Jan. 1	Buffalo	(-10.5)	49-21
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 14	Denver	(-14)	45-10
Jan. 22	Baltimore	(-7)	23-20
Feb. 5	New York Giants	(-3)	17-21

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	@MIA.	S.D.	@BUFF.	@OAK.	N.Y.J.	DALL.	@PITT.	N.Y.G.	@N.Y.J.	K.C.	@PHIL.	IND.	@WASH.	@DEN.	MIA.	BUFF.	
Score	38-24	35-21	31-34	31-19	30-21	20-16	17-25	20-24	37-16	34-3	38-20	31-24	34-27	41-23	27-24	49-21	
Total net yards	622	504	495	409	446	371	213	438	389	380	457	362	431	451	400	480	6848
Rushing yards	106	94	108	183	152	101	43	106	60	157	104	73	79	141	119	138	1764
Passing yards	516	410	387	226	294	270	170	332	329	223	353	289	352	310	281	342	5084
Rushing plays	22	25	26	30	35	25	12	24	28	35	36	24	20	36	31	29	438
Sacks allowed	1	2	0	1	4	3	3	2	0	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	32
Had intercepted	1	0	4	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	12
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Yards penalized	50	80	93	45	50	35	37	81	80	20	20	20	47	30	50	77	815
Punts	4	2	3	3	4	2	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	6	2	57
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	31:33	30:58	28:45	33:20	26:05	32:49	39:22	30:17	29:53	31:30	27:17	35:39	36:09	26:19	29:04	30:22	31:13
Total net yards	488	470	448	504	255	377	427	361	378	334	466	437	463	393	374	402	6577
Rushing yards	98	98	79	160	97	77	98	111	110	125	73	99	170	252	121	106	1874
Passing yards	390	372	369	344	158	300	329	250	268	209	393	338	293	141	253	296	4703
Rushing plays	20	24	20	27	25	24	23	29	25	27	17	31	34	31	28	20	405
Sacks allowed	4	2	0	0	2	2	5	0	5	3	2	2	2	4	5	2	40
Had intercepted	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	1	4	23
Fumbles lost	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	11
Yards penalized	60	44	77	85	89	77	50	50	56	34	60	29	73	39	39	45	907
Punts	6	1	5	2	7	4	1	8	5	5	5	3	3	3	6	3	67
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Brady	1-3-0	2-3-0	1-5-0	1-(-1)-0	1-3-0	4-17-0		1-5-0	3-2-0	2-10-0	5-28-0	3-7-0	4-8-0	6-2-1	9-17-2		43-109-3
Faulk							6-32-0		5-8-0			2-5-0	3-11-0	1-1-0			17-57-0
Green-Ellis	7-34-1	17-70-1	10-18-0	16-75-1	27-136-2	14-58-0	5-9-0	12-52-0	8-8-0	20-81-0	14-44-2	6-14-1	5-19-0	10-17-1	3-10-0	7-22-2	181-667-11
R. Gronkowski												1-2-1					1-2-1
Hernandez							1-2-0							1-16-0	1-1-0	2-26-0	5-45-0
Ridley		2-9-0	6-42-0	10-97-1	7-13-0	3-19-0		3-10-0	5-4-0		4-4-0	8-33-0		11-65-0	13-64-0	15-81-0	87-441-1
Vereen										8-39-1	7-18-0						15-57-1
Welker			1-19-0					1-13-0			1-(-9)-0				1-7-0		4-30-0
Woodhead	14-69-0	4-12-0	6-21-0	2-13-0		4-7-0		7-26-0	7-38-0	5-27-0	4-20-0	4-12-0	8-41-0	7-40-1	4-20-0	1-5-0	77-351-1
**PASSING ** **																	
Brady	32-48-1 517-4	31-40-0 423-3	30-45-4 387-4	16-30-0 226-2	24-33-1 321-1	27-41-2 289-2	24-35-0 198-2	28-49-2 342-2	26-39-0 329-3	15-27-0 234-2	24-34-0 361-3	29-38-0 289-2	22-37-1 357-3	23-34-0 320-2	27-46-0 304-1	23-35-1 338-3	401-611-12 5235-39
RECEIVING																	
Branch	7-93-0	8-129-0		1-4-1	7-74-1	3-69-0	4-36-1	2-21-0	5-58-1	2-19-0	6-125-0	3-37-0			3-37-1		51-702-5
Edelman	1-9-0		1-5-0	1-11-0				0-2-0						1-7-0			4-34-0
Faulk							5-20-0					1-13-0	1-1-0				7-34-0
Green-Ellis		1-5-0		1-9-0	1-13-0	1-11-0		1-11-0		1-25-0				2-32-0		1-53-0	9-159-0
R. Gronkowski	6-86-1	4-86-2	7-109-2	1-15-0	4-31-0	7-74-0	7-94-0	8-101-1	8-113-2	4-96-2	4-59-1	5-64-2	6-160-2	4-53-0	7-78-0	8-108-2	90-1327-17
Hernandez	7-103-1	7-62-1			5-56-0	8-68-1	2-9-1	4-35-1	4-41-0	4-44-0	6-62-0	7-43-0	5-84-0	9-129-1	4-36-0	7-138-1	79-910-7
Ochocinco	1-14-0	2-45-0	2-28-0	2-26-0	2-23-0				2-65-0			1-12-0	1-15-0	1-33-1	1-15-0		15-276-1
Welker	8-160-2	7-81-0	16-217-2	9-158-1	5-124-0	6-45-1	6-39-0	9-136-0	6-46-0	2-22-0	8-115-2	11-110-0	7-86-1	4-41-0	12-138-0	6-51-0	122-1569-9
Woodhead	1-6-0	2-15-0	3-20-0			2-22-0		3-34-0	1-6-0	2-28-0			1-4-0	1-12-0		2-10-0	18-157-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

better in '11. He is a disruptive run stuffer who attracts two blockers. Wilfork is versatile and can play inside in the 4-3 or bounce outside in a "30" front. DT Kyle Love is one of the defense's most underrated players. Another space eater, Love is consistent against the run. The Patriots traded up in the draft for Chandler Jones, an athletic pass rusher with rare length and explosive body power. Jones can wreak havoc in a backfield and has room to grow into his frame. Third-round DE Jake Bequette is an edge rusher who plays with energy and has a great motor. DE Brandon Deaderick is a big-bodied lineman with a good motor. The team added DE Jonathan Fanene, who had 6½ sacks for the Bengals last season and can play inside, and ex-Raider Trevor Scott, an edge rusher whose production has fallen sharply since '09. Ron Brace has not been able to stay healthy. DT Myron Pryor needs to stay healthy, and veteran Gerard Warren provides depth.

LINEBACKERS

WLB Jerod Mayo goes about his business quietly, but it is not unnoticed, as the Patriots rewarded him with a contract extension last season. The captain of the defense, Mayo is always around the ball. He is a playmaker who can run with tight ends and rush the passer. He can play the weak side in a 4-3 or inside in the 3-4. MLB Brandon Spikes made some big plays last season and is best against the run. He has pass-rush skills but needs to play under control. Rookie Dont'a Hightower will have a chance to start on the strong side and can be a rotational inside player in the 3-4. He is a physical run stuffer who has the versatility to rush the quarterback off the edge. SLB Rob Ninkovich is a high-effort, high-motor player who can get into the backfield and has good instincts. Dane Fletcher backs up Spikes and has good speed and athleticism but is not as sure of a tackler as Spikes is. Jermaine Cunningham has yet to show any promise as a pass rusher and this could be his last chance to make an impression. Tracy White is a special-teams standout who can run with tight ends. Markell Carter, a developmental player, could blossom into a pass rusher.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Chandler Jones	DE	Syracuse	21
1	Dont'a Hightower	LB	Alabama	25
2	Tavon Wilson	FS	Illinois	48
3	Jake Bequette	DE	Arkansas	90
6	Nate Ebner	SS	Ohio State	197
7	Alfonzo Dennard	CB	Nebraska	224
7	Jeremy Ebert	WR	Northwestern	235

C. JONES

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Patriots' much-maligned secondary could use a boost in 2012. Devin McCourty had a sophomore slump after being one of the top defensive rookies in '10. He struggled running with receivers and did not have the same ball skills that he showed in his first season. McCourty has speed and the team moved him to safety in the sub-package late in the season, but ideally, he will return to form as the team's top corner. Kyle Arrington may not have the skill set as an every-week starter on the outside, but he had a nose for the ball last year and was consistent. He can stop the run, but will struggle against bigger receivers. The team is high on Ras-I Dowling, who started the only two games in which he played as a rookie in '11. He is physical with good size, but is injury-prone. Veteran Will Allen will compete with Sterling Moore to be the nickel corner. Moore is a versatile and athletic player who got a lot of experience as a rookie. Alfonzo Dennard dropped to the seventh round because of character concerns, but he has good instincts and ball skills to cover the slot. Safety was a revolving door last season and the back end of the defense struggled mightily when Patrick Chung was out. Chung is a heady, instinctive, tough player who can lay the lumber. He is good in the box and can run with tight ends, but is not at his best when in coverage. That's one of the reasons why the Pats signed Steve Gregory,

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	LLOYD	84 Branch		Stallworth
OLT	77 SOLDER	61 Cannon		
OLG	70 MANKINS	Gallery		
C	67 KOPPEN	63 Connolly	62	Wendell
ORG	54 WATERS	63 Connolly	64	Thomas
ORT	76 VOLLMER	61 Cannon	68	Kopa
TE	87 GRONKOWSKI	81 Hernandez		Fells
WR	83 WELKER	Gaffney	11	Edelman
QB	12 BRADY	8 Hoyer	15	Mallett
RB	22 RIDLEY	39 Woodhead	34	Vereen
FB	LARSEN	Fiammetta		
DEFENSE				
DLE	JONES*	71 Deaderick		Scott
DT	75 WILFORK	Warren		Harrison
DT	74 LOVE	91 Pryor	97	Brace
DRE	FANENE	Bequette*	96	Cunningham
SLB	50 NINKOVICH	Hightower*		Carpenter
MLB	55 SPIKES	52 Fletcher	90	Koutouvides
WLB	51 MAYO	58 White	53	Tarpinian
LCB	32 McCOURTY	21 Dowling		Cole
RCB	24 ARRINGTON	29 Moore		Allen
SS	25 CHUNG	30 Barrett	35	Ventrone
FS	28 GREGORY	31 Brown		Wilson*
SPECIALISTS				
P	14 MESKO			
PK	3 GOSTKOWSKI			
H	14 MESKO			
PR	11 EDELMAN	83 Welker		
KR	39 WOODHEAD			
LS	48 AIKEN			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Bill Belichick, head coach; Josh Boyer, defensive backs; Moses Cabrera, asst. strength and conditioning; Ivan Fears, running backs; Brian Flores, defensive assistant; George Godsey, offensive assistant; Patrick Graham, linebackers; Pepper Johnson, defensive line; Josh McDaniels, offensive coordinator; Harold Nash, strength and conditioning; Scott O'Brien, special teams; Chad O'Shea, wide receivers; Matt Patricia, safeties; Dante Scarnecchia, asst. head coach/offensive line.

who can help cover receivers. Sergio Brown committed some costly penalties last season and mainly contributed on special teams. Josh Barrett has the size of a linebacker but missed most of the 2011 season with a calf injury. Second-round FS Tavon Wilson was the surprise pick of the draft. He has good versatility that Belichick values, along with size and toughness.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Stephen Gostkowski returned to form following a season-ending injury in 2010, converting 28-of-33 FG attempts in '11. However, less than 40 percent of his kickoffs resulted in touchbacks, ranking him in the bottom third in the league in that category. The coverage teams, which were some of the best in the NFL, often bailed Gostkowski out. Special-teams captain Matthew Slater has plenty of speed as a gunner and got help from LB Tracy White and S Sergio Brown, and CB Marquice Cole will join the mix. Rookie Nate Ebner, a former standout rugby player, will factor in as well. P Zoltan Mesko had another impressive season, finishing third in the league with a 41.5-yard net punting average. He is intelligent and can pin opponents deep. The Pats struggled to get consistency on kickoff returns. RB Danny Woodhead eventually took hold over the position, but there's room to put a speedier option back there. Julian Edelman had another punt-return touchdown in 2011. He is elusive with good agility.

SUMMARY

Tom Brady and Bill Belichick have proved two years in a row that a prolific offense can overcome a below-average defense, but it hasn't been enough to win another Lombardi Trophy. Talent on the back end of the defense needs to improve, and the first-round picks showed the team's urgency to improve the "D." There is still a gap between New England and the rest of the division. Under Robert Kraft, the Patriots don't rebuild, they reload, and 2012 is primed to give Brady and Belichick an opportunity to avenge last season's Super Bowl loss.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
48	Aiken, Danny	LS	6-4	250	2	Virginia	16/0
	Allen, Will	CB	5-10	195	12	Syracuse	15/6
24	Arrington, Kyle	CB	5-10	196	4	Hofstra	16/14
30	Barrett, Josh	S	6-2	225	5	Arizona State	5/4
	Bequette, Jake	DE	6-5	274	R	Arkansas	
97	Brace, Ron	DT	6-3	330	4	Boston College	7/0
12	Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	13	Michigan	16/16
84	Branch, Deion	WR	5-9	195	11	Louisville	15/15
31	Brown, Sergio	SS	6-2	210	3	Notre Dame	15/3
61	Cannon, Marcus	OT	6-5	358	2	TCU	7/0
	Carpenter, Bobby	OLB	6-2	249	7	Ohio State	16/3
49	Carter, Markell	LB	6-4	248	1	Central Arkansas	0/0
25	Chung, Patrick	FS	5-11	212	4	Oregon	8/8
	Cole, Marquice	CB	5-10	192	4	Northwestern	14/0
63	Connolly, Dan	OG-C	6-4	313	7	Southeast Missouri St.	13/11
96	Cunningham, Jermaine	OLB	6-3	260	3	Florida	9/0
17	Davis, Britt	WR	6-3	205	2	Northern Illinois	0/0
71	Deaderick, Brandon	DE	6-4	305	3	Alabama	10/5
	Dennard, Alfonzo	CB	5-10	202	R	Nebraska	
21	Dowling, Ras-I	CB	6-1	198	2	Virginia	2/2
	Ebert, Jeremy	WR	5-11	200	R	Northwestern	
	Ebner, Nate	S	6-0	205	R	Ohio State	
11	Edelman, Julian	WR	5-10	198	4	Kent State	13/0
	Fanene, Jonathan	DE	6-4	292	8	Utah	16/2
	Fells, Daniel	TE	6-4	252	5	UC Davis	16/15
	Fiammetta, Tony	FB	6-0	242	4	Syracuse	10/6
52	Fletcher, Dane	LB	6-2	244	3	Montana State	10/5
	Gaffney, Jabar	WR	6-2	200	11	Florida	16/15
	Gallery, Robert	OG	6-7	325	9	Iowa	12/12
	Gonzalez, Anthony	WR	6-0	193	6	Ohio State	8/0
3	Gostkowski, Stephen	PK	6-1	215	7	Memphis	16/0
28	Gregory, Steve	SS	5-11	195	7	Syracuse	15/13
87	Gronkowski, Rob	TE	6-6	265	3	Arizona	16/16
	Harrison, Marcus	DT	6-3	316	4	Arkansas	0/0
	Hartline, Mike	QB	6-6	210	1	Kentucky	0/0
81	Hernandez, Aaron	TE	6-1	245	3	Florida	14/12
	Hightower, Dont'a	LB	6-4	260	R	Alabama	
69	Hix, Kyle	OL	6-7	325	1	Texas	0/0
8	Hoyer, Brian	QB	6-2	215	4	Michigan State	3/0
	Jones, Chandler	DE	6-5	265	R	Syracuse	
36	Kettani, Eric	RB	5-11	235	1	Navy	0/0
	Koepplin, Chris	PK	6-3	210	1	Massachusetts	0/0
68	Kopa, Matt	OT	6-6	303	2	Stanford	0/0
67	Koppen, Dan	C	6-2	296	10	Boston College	1/1
90	Koutouvides, Niko	LB	6-2	238	9	Purdue	8/1
	Larsen, Spencer	FB	6-2	243	5	Arizona	16/6
60	Lavarias, Aaron	DL	6-3	248	1	Idaho	0/0
	Lloyd, Brandon	WR	6-0	188	10	Illinois	15/14
74	Love, Kyle	DT	6-1	310	3	Mississippi State	16/13
15	Mallett, Ryan	QB	6-6	238	2	Arkansas	0/0
70	Mankins, Logan	OG	6-4	310	8	Fresno State	15/15
51	Mayo, Jerod	ILB	6-1	245	5	Tennessee	14/13
32	McCourty, Devin	CB	5-10	193	3	Rutgers	14/14
65	McDonald, Nick	OG	6-4	305	3	Grand Valley State	4/2
14	Mesko, Zoltan	P	6-5	231	3	Michigan	16/0
29	Moore, Sterling	CB	5-10	190	2	SMU	6/3
50	Ninkovich, Rob	OLB	6-2	255	7	Purdue	16/16
85	Ochocinco, Chad	WR	6-1	192	12	Oregon State	15/3
91	Pryor, Myron	DT	6-1	310	4	Kentucky	2/0
22	Ridley, Stevan	RB	5-11	225	2	LSU	14/2
47	Rivera, Mike	LB	6-2	252	1	Kansas	0/0
	Scott, Trevor	DE	6-5	255	5	Buffalo	16/0
69	Silvestro, Alex	DE	6-3	267	2	Rutgers	1/0
18	Slater, Matthew	WR	6-0	200	5	UCLA	16/3
77	Solder, Nate	OT	6-8	319	2	Colorado	16/13
55	Spikes, Brandon	ILB	6-2	250	3	Florida	8/6
	Stallworth, Donté	WR	6-0	220	10	Tennessee	11/0
53	Tarpinian, Jeff	LB	6-3	238	2	Iowa	7/1
64	Thomas, Donald	OG	6-4	310	5	Connecticut	10/1
35	Ventrone, Ross	S	5-8	190	2	Villanova	8/0
34	Vereen, Shane	RB	5-9	205	2	California	5/0
76	Vollmer, Sebastian	OT	6-8	315	4	Houston	6/5
	Warren, Gerard	DT	6-4	330	12	Florida	12/0
54	Waters, Brian	OG	6-3	320	13	North Texas	16/16
83	Welker, Wes	WR	5-9	185	9	Texas Tech	16/15
62	Wendell, Ryan	C	6-2	290	4	Fresno State	14/3
58	White, Tracy	LB	6-0	230	10	Howard	15/1
75	Wilfork, Vince	NT	6-2	325	9	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
41	Williams, Malcolm	DB	5-11	200	2	TCU	2/0
	Wilson, Tavon	FS	6-0	205	R	Illinois	
39	Woodhead, Danny	RB	5-8	195	5	Chadron State (Neb.)	15/4

2 BUFFALO Bills

2012 PREDICTION: 8-8 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 6-10 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

C. GAILEY

HEAD COACH: Chan Gailey
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Curtis Modkins
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Wannstedt
OWNER: Ralph Wilson Jr.
STADIUM: Ralph Wilson Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 73,967
PLAYING SURFACE: AstroPlay
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.buffalobills.com

The Bills grabbed attention with a 5-2 start to the 2011 season that included a thrilling, come-from-behind win over the Patriots. Behind a balanced, high-octane attack on offense and a turnover-creating defense, Buffalo was primed to end the NFL's longest playoff drought. But when the weather turned frigid, the Bills fell apart.

Buffalo stumbled to a 6-10 mark, making it 12 years since it last made the playoffs, and watched as the Lions and Texans ended their long playoff droughts. Injuries riddled the Bills, the defense couldn't stop anyone and QB Ryan Fitzpatrick's game regressed.

In the offseason, the Bills fired defensive coordinator George Edwards and promoted Dave Wannstedt. GM Buddy Nix continued something he began in the 2011 season — re-signing Buffalo's top talent. The team gave extensions to DT Kyle Williams and Fitzpatrick during the season, then signed its top free agent, WR Stevie Johnson, to a five-year deal in early March.

When free agency opened, the Bills made arguably the biggest free-agent move in club history, signing DE Mario Williams. The former No. 1 overall pick fills the team's big need for a pass rusher and should help improve a defense that ranked 26th. In addition to Williams, Buffalo added DE Mark Anderson, giving the Bills one of the league's best defensive fronts.

The expectations are as high as they have been for the Bills in a long time. They remain a rung below the Patriots, but 2012 looks hopeful for the postseason drought to come to an end.

MARIO WILLIAMS

OFFENSE

Chan Gailey's spread attack has QB Ryan Fitzpatrick working predominantly out of the shotgun, throwing quick passes, including many slants, to his receivers and heavily utilizing dual-threat RBs Fred Jackson and C.J. Spiller in the screen game. The unit was one of the best in the league in the first half of 2011, emphasizing balance with the run game. The short-to-intermediate passing game benefits from Fitzpatrick's quick decision making. The O-line paved the way for a productive rushing attack out of the spread.

QUARTERBACKS

No one will question Ryan Fitzpatrick's smarts, but it was his accuracy that got the Bills off to a hot start in 2011. Fitzpatrick gets rid of the ball quickly and is adept at reading defenses. He has some mobility in the pocket and was sacked only 22 times. His weakness is his arm strength, as Fitzpatrick struggled on deep throws, especially when the weather turned cold. A rib injury suffered in the middle of the season also might have contributed to his second-half struggles. Tyler Thigpen, Fitzpatrick's backup, has some starting experience, the legs to move the pocket and is not afraid to take chances. Thigpen played for Gailey in Kansas City and played for new quarterbacks coach David Lee in Miami. Brad Smith is the team's "Wildcat" quarterback, but he predominantly ran out of the formation last season.

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
DE Mark Anderson, DE Mario Williams.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
OLT Demetress Bell, WR Roscoe Parrish.

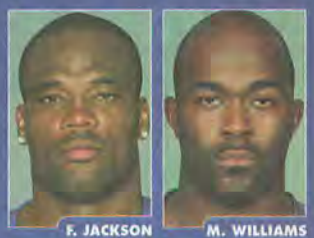
PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Fred Jackson

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE Mario Williams

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
CB Aaron Williams

POSITION BATTLE
OLT: Chris Hairston vs. Cordy Glenn


F. JACKSON M. WILLIAMS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B	A-	C+	B	A	C	B	A-

▶ RUNNING BACKS

The Bills were one of the league leaders running the football early last season and can feel comfortable with a two-pronged attack in 2012 thanks to the emergence of Fred Jackson to start the season and C.J. Spiller at the end. Jackson seized the starting role in the backfield and was so dominant in rushing, receiving and blocking that Spiller was moved to receiver early in the campaign. Jackson is elusive and breaks tackles with good balance. He blocks well and excelled in the screen game — he averaged 137.6 yards of offense before going down for the season in Week 11 with a broken fibula. Jackson spots his holes with good vision and hits them hard. Like many Bills players, Jackson, who took a circuitous route to the NFL, plays with a chip on his shoulder. Spiller came on strong when given the reins and showed his home-run-hitting speed. He is explosive and also can function as a receiver. He can't carry a heavy load like Jackson, though. Tashard Choice is a versatile, veteran No. 3 who showed some impressive rushing abilities earlier in his career. FB Corey McIntyre makes most of his contributions on special teams, where he led the team with 11 tackles last season.

▶ RECEIVERS

Stevie Johnson will not blow past defenders down the sideline, and his endzone antics have drawn ire, but he is the Bills' top receiver and was rewarded with a contract extension. Johnson can beat corners in one-on-one matchups, as illustrated by his success against Jets CB Darrelle Revis. Johnson is crafty and uses his leverage well. The Bills have struggled to find a consistent No. 2 on the outside. Hopes remain high for Donald Jones, who is tough, a good blocker and brings vertical speed, but suffered a season-ending ankle injury in Week 11. David Nelson has good size and hands, and had some productive games out of the slot. Marcus Easley has yet to play an NFL game because of a heart ailment but the team hopes he can develop into a downfield threat. Third-round pick, T.J. Graham, was one of the best vertical receivers in the draft. The former track star is a burner, but he needs to develop more physically and learn to hold on to the ball. Veterans Ruvell Martin and Derek Hagan provide depth, and Buffalo native Naaman Roosevelt flashed a spark in 2011. TE Scott Chandler got off to a hot start as a top target in the red zone last season. He's a good route runner with the size to present matchup problems. He also helped in the run game with his blocking. Lee Smith and Mike Caussin will battle to be Chandler's backup.

▶ OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A much-maligned unit heading into 2011, the Bills' offensive line improved greatly and was a big reason for the early offensive success — and it started in the middle with C Eric Wood. The leader of the unit, Wood has tenacity and is a determined player who communicates well. When he went on injured reserve in early November with a torn right ACL, the group struggled. OLG Andy Levitre is versatile — he filled in at center and tackle but is best at guard — and pulls well. He makes up for his lack of size with his smarts and flashes some nastiness. OGs Kraig Urbik and Chad Rinehart were reliable pullers and could battle for the starting job at right guard that Urbik held down in 2011. Erik Pears won the starting job at right tackle in the preseason and was rewarded with a contract extension at the end of the year. He is stout at the point and is a good technician. On the blind side, Chris Hairston was thrust into a starting role after Demetress Bell went down. Hairston had his struggles but has good arm length for the position. With Bell gone, the Bills used a second-round pick on Cordy Glenn to compete with Hairston to start Day One. Glenn has long arms and moves well for his massive size. He was a guard in college before moving to the OLT spot as a senior. He must prove he can handle the blind side in the pros. Rookie Zebrie Sanders can be a versatile swing backup. He has long arms but saw his stock slide after a poor Senior Bowl performance. Michael Jasper moved from D-line to guard last preseason and has intriguing agility for his size. Rookie Mark Asper and veterans Sam Young and Colin Brown add depth.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at New York Jets	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	New England	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	at San Francisco	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Arizona	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 21	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	BYE	
Nov. 4	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	at New England	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 15	Miami	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Seattle	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	New York Jets	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Buffalo

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Kansas City	(+4)	41-7
Sept. 18	Oakland	(-3.5)	38-35
Sept. 25	New England	(+7)	34-31
Oct. 2	At Cincinnati	(-3)	20-23
Oct. 9	Philadelphia	(+3)	31-24
Oct. 16	At New York Giants	(+3.5)	24-27
Oct. 23	BYE		
Oct. 30	Washington	(-4)	23-0
Nov. 6	New York Jets	(-2.5)	11-27
Nov. 13	At Dallas	(+4.5)	7-44
Nov. 20	At Miami	(+3)	8-35
Nov. 27	At New York Jets	(+9.5)	24-28
Dec. 4	Tennessee	(-1)	17-23
Dec. 11	At San Diego	(+7)	10-37
Dec. 18	Miami	(0)	23-30
Dec. 24	Denver	(+3)	40-14
Jan. 1	At New England	(+10.5)	21-49

DEFENSE

Dave Wannstedt will take over a defense that began the 2011 season as one of the league's most opportunistic units, but ended it with as many holes as it had shown in the past. Wannstedt will transition the group to a 4-3 scheme and with two big free-agent acquisitions, the Bills will boast one of the best D-line groupings in the NFL, which should allow Wannstedt to be as aggressive as he would like.

▶ DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bills' pass rush has come from the interior the last two seasons, and it was far from enough, so they hit the home run of free agency, signing Mario Williams. The two-time Pro Bowler is a complete player and will return to having his hand in the ground in the 4-3. He is strong, relentless, quick off the ball and has the athleticism to drop into coverage if needed. Opposite Williams will be DEs Chris Kelsay and Mark Anderson. Kelsay has some pass-rush skills and is more suited to play a 4-3 role than the 3-4 LB role he has played. Anderson had 10 sacks last season with the Patriots and shows good moves to get after the quarterback, though he is not strong against the run. DT Marcell Dareus had a stellar

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	@K.C.	OAK.	N.E.	@CIN.	PHIL.	@N.Y.G.	WASH.	N.Y.J.	@DALL.	@MIA.	@N.Y.J.	TEN.	@S.D.	MIA.	DEN.	@N.E.	
Score	41-7	38-35	34-31	20-23	31-24	24-27	23-0	11-27	7-44	8-35	24-28	17-23	10-37	23-30	40-14	21-49	
Total net yards	364	481	448	273	331	374	390	287	271	245	336	386	281	404	351	402	5624
Rushing yards	163	223	79	83	143	155	138	96	135	41	86	104	96	113	160	106	1921
Passing yards	201	258	369	190	188	219	252	191	136	204	250	282	185	291	191	296	3703
Rushing plays	39	24	20	21	35	23	33	22	17	19	28	23	20	19	28	20	391
Sacks allowed	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	23
Had intercepted	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	3	2	0	0	3	3	0	4	25
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
Yards penalized	30	26	77	26	40	75	35	84	12	27	85	15	5	92	69	45	743
Punts	5	2	5	8	5	3	3	4	3	7	7	4	2	8	4	3	73
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	22:58	29:13	31:15	31:21	26:22	30:47	25:09	37:52	34:32	31:06	23:49	28:14	35:33	28:49	30:31	29:38	29:49
Total net yards	213	454	495	458	489	414	178	348	433	242	318	317	366	448	285	480	5938
Rushing yards	108	131	108	171	174	122	26	126	163	95	138	187	150	254	133	138	2224
Passing yards	105	323	387	287	315	292	152	222	270	147	180	130	216	194	152	342	3714
Rushing plays	18	30	26	32	20	33	11	39	35	35	23	31	32	38	35	29	467
Sacks allowed	2	0	0	2	0	0	10	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	4	4	29
Had intercepted	1	1	4	2	4	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	20
Fumbles lost	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	11
Yards penalized	3	85	93	15	46	79	59	60	74	50	40	20	50	62	58	77	871
Punts	8	3	3	5	2	3	6	2	1	7	5	5	3	6	7	2	68
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Choice											2-(-8)-0	5-20-0	1-12-0	5-15-0	9-27-0	1-4-1	23-70-1
Fitzpatrick	3-3-0	3-23-0	4-(-6)-0	1-5-0	3-7-0	3-8-0	3-4-0	2-9-0	3-20-0	7-16-0	5-34-0	4-1-0	5-26-0	2-7-0	3-22-0	5-36-0	56-215-0
F. Jackson	20-112-0	15-117-2	12-74-1	17-66-1	26-111-1	16-121-1	26-120-0	18-82-0	13-114-0	7-17-0							170-934-6
B. Smith	3-6-0	2-20-0	2-6-0		4-12-1	4-26-0	4-14-0				1-3-0						20-87-1
Spiller	5-16-1	4-63-0	1-3-0	3-12-0	2-13-0			2-5-0	1-1-0	3-2-0	19-55-0	14-83-1	12-46-0	12-91-1	16-111-1	13-60-0	107-561-4
J. White	8-26-0									2-6-0	1-2-0		1-4-0				12-38-0
PASSING **																	
Fitzpatrick	17-25-0 208-4	28-46-1 264-3	27-40-2 369-2	20-34-0 199-0	21-27-1 193-1	21-30-2 244-2	21-27-1 262-2	15-31-2 191-1	20-31-3 146-1	20-39-2 209-0	26-39-0 264-3	29-46-0 288-1	13-34-2 176-0	31-47-3 316-2	15-27-0 196-0	29-46-4 307-2	353-569-23 3832-24
RECEIVING																	
Caussin												2-16-0	2-19-0		1-6-0		5-41-0
Chandler	5-63-2	2-16-1	2-10-1	2-8-0	1-4-0	1-(-3)-0	2-35-2	3-24-0	3-34-0	5-71-0	6-50-0	3-48-0				3-29-0	38-389-6
Choice												1-7-0	1-2-0	3-41-0	1-(-8)-0	1-9-0	7-51-0
Hagan													2-28-0	2-12-1	2-9-0	7-89-0	13-138-1
F. Jackson	1-5-0	2-23-0	5-87-0	5-32-0	6-85-0	5-47-0	3-74-0	3-38-0	4-1-0	5-50-0							39-442-0
St. Johnson	4-66-1	8-96-1	8-94-1	4-58-0	4-29-0	5-39-1	6-57-0	3-84-0	2-8-0	2-16-0	8-75-1	5-52-1	4-116-0	5-82-0	4-92-0	4-40-1	76-1004-7
Jones	2-3-1	4-24-0	5-101-0	3-21-0	2-25-0			1-6-0	6-51-0								23-231-1
R. Martin														3-40-0		4-42-0	7-82-0
D. Nelson	4-66-0	10-83-1	6-84-0	2-18-0	1-6-1	4-62-0	4-47-0	4-36-1	4-31-1	1-0-0	5-47-1	3-34-0	2-20-0	6-60-0	3-41-0	2-23-0	61-658-5
Roosevelt				1-28-0	5-41-0	1-60-1	1-22-0	1-3-0	1-21-0	2-28-0		1-25-0				3-29-0	16-257-1
B. Smith				2-25-0			3-18-0			3-35-0	4-77-1	7-72-0		3-5-0	1-8-0		23-240-1
Spiller	1-5-0	1-6-0	1-(-7)-0	1-9-0	2-3-0	5-39-0	2-9-0			2-18-0	3-15-0	3-19-0	3-10-0	9-76-1	2-27-0	4-40-1	39-269-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Stephon Gilmore	CB	South Carolina	10
2	Cordy Glenn	OT	Georgia	41
3	T.J. Graham	WR	North Carolina State	69
4	Nigel Bradham	OLB	Florida State	105
4	Ron Brooks	CB	LSU	124
5	Zebrie Sanders	OT	Florida State	144
5	Tank Carder	LB	TCU	147
6	Mark Asper	OG	Oregon	178
7	John Potter	PK	Western Michigan	251

S. GILMORE

rookie season. He's strong, powerful and can penetrate to get to the QB. Dareus rarely lost a one-on-one battle. Next to him is Kyle Williams, who is undersized but very athletic. He is disruptive and instinctive in slipping blocks, but is coming off a season-ending foot injury. Shawne Merriman could not stay healthy last year and was not effective when he was on the field. If he can avoid injury, he may be used as a sub-package rusher. Danny Batten has shown promise and is effective on special teams, but he never lived up to high expectations as a pass-rushing linebacker last year. DT Kellen Heard has some upside but has had back injuries. Veteran Dwan Edwards is productive, but may struggle to find a role in the new "40" front. Torell Troup, Alex Carrington and Spencer Johnson are big-bodied linemen who should factor in the rotation. Carrington lined up at D-end and outside linebacker last season, but he will be in the rotation on the interior.

LINEBACKERS

Nick Barnett was the team's best acquisition last season and should line up on the weak side this year. He is a three-down player who has some range. Barnett quickly became one of the team leaders. Kelvin Sheppard is getting the nod as the starting "Mike" linebacker following a productive rookie campaign. He has good instincts and is a big hitter. He is explosive at contact and rarely misses a tackle. There are question marks on the strong side. Arthur Moats moved from outside to inside last season and is versatile. He showed some pass-rush abilities as a 3-4 outside 'backer as a rookie and could play in the nickel and dime thanks to his athleticism. However, he will have to learn the SLB spot. Kirk Morrison is another versatile, veteran 'backer who was a tackle machine earlier in his career and said the lockout was a big reason why he struggled last season. Fourth-rounder Nigel Bradham is an explosive striker with average instincts who should fit well in this fast-flowing defense and will be in the mix at the SLB spot. Chris White was mainly a special-teams contributor in his rookie season. Bryan Scott could find himself in the box more than the secondary and can help cover tight ends. Tank Carder has intriguing athleticism but must prove he can stay healthy.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Part of the struggles in defending the pass came at the cornerback position. Drayton Florence, who was inconsistent last season, was cut in May, signaling the transition to youth in the secondary. The future at the outside position rests with Aaron Williams, who was hurt for most of 2011 but impressed in his opportunities as a rookie. He has good ball skills and is very physical. First-round CB Stephon Gilmore is the leading candidate for the other starting spot. He is big, physical and fast with upside, but his eyes, instincts and hands are still developing. Veteran Terrence McGee is injury-prone — he has played 26 games the past three seasons — but good against the run and has a chance to start. One advantage the Bills have, especially in the AFC East, is a solid safety duo. SS George Wilson is the unit's leader. He showed a nose for the ball early last season and was second on the team in tackles. FS Jairus Byrd is one of the league's more underrated safeties. He has good instincts, ball skills and is a sure tackler. CB Leodis McKelvin lost his starting job to Williams and was relegated to special teams. He has speed but struggled with the ball in the air. Fourth-round CB Ron Brooks was overshadowed

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE		
WR	13 ST. JOHNSON	18 Roosevelt	Graham*
OLT	75 HAIRSTON	Glenn*	
OLG	67 LEVITRE	76 Rinehart	69 Jasper
C	70 WOOD	74 Brown	
ORG	60 URBIK	76 Rinehart	Asper*
ORT	79 PEARS	Sanders*	71 Young
TE	84 CHANDLER	83 Caussin	85 L. Smith
WR	19 JONES	86 Nelson	82 Martin
QB	14 FITZPATRICK	4 Thigpen	16 B. Smith
RB	22 JACKSON	28 Spiller	30 Choice
FB	38 McINTYRE		
	DEFENSE		
DLE	M. WILLIAMS	56 Merriman	57 Batten
DT	95 KY. WILLIAMS	92 Carrington	96 Troup
DT	99 DAREUS	98 Edwards	72 Heard
DRE	ANDERSON	90 Kelsay	91 Sp. Johnson
WLB	50 BARNETT	43 Scott	51 C. White
MLB	55 SHEPPARD	Carder*	59 McKillop
SLB	58 MORRISON	52 Moats	Bradham*
LCB	27 GILMORE*	24 McGee	26 Rogers
RCB	23 A. WILLIAMS	21 McKelvin	Brooks*
SS	37 WILSON	43 Scott	25 Searcy
FS	31 BYRD	47 Nesbitt	
	SPECIALISTS		
P	8 MOORMAN	Powell*	
PK	9 LINDELL	Potter*	
H	8 MOORMAN		
PR	21 McKELVIN		
KR	26 ROGERS	21 McKelvin	16 B. Smith
LS	65 SANBORN		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Bob Bicknell, wide receivers; George Catavolos, secondary; Eric Ciano, strength and conditioning; Joe D'Alessandris, offensive line; Andrew Dees, asst. offensive line; Bruce DeHaven, special teams; Chan Gailey, head coach; John Gamble, strength and conditioning; William Inge, asst. defensive line; Stan Kwan, asst. special teams; David Lee, quarterbacks; Pete Metzelaars, tight ends; Curtis Modkins, offensive coordinator/running backs; Kevin Patullo, offensive quality control; Bob Sanders, linebackers; Giff Smith, defensive line; Eric Thatcher, defensive quality control; Dave Wannstedt, asst. head coach/defensive coordinator; Adrian White, asst. defensive backs.

in LSU's secondary, but he was one of the fastest players in the draft and could become a contributor in Dave Wannstedt's scheme. Hybrid S-LB Bryan Scott can help in coverage. SS Da'Norris Searcy impressed in limited time last season. He has good bulk and toughness to help in multiple spots.

SPECIAL TEAMS

P Brian Moorman is no longer among the league's top punters but he's still above-average with a strong leg and the ability to punt well directionally. PK Rian Lindell ended last season on injured reserve. The veteran missed only two field goals before getting hurt. Rookie John Potter brings a big leg to help on kickoffs. CB Justin Rogers took over kickoff returns late in the season and brought a spark to that area with his speed. Brad Smith can also contribute. While Leodis McKelvin lost his standing as a corner, he remained an electric punt returner. Danny Batten and Ruvell Martin were two of the team's top players in kick coverage, and the team ranked first in opponent kickoff-return coverage. Rookies Nigel Bradham, Tank Carder and Ron Brooks should provide a boost to the coverage teams.

SUMMARY

We are not yet at the point to say this Bills team can return to the glory years of the early 1990s, but for the first time in more than a decade, the Bills appear to finally have the talent to match their AFC East foes. Questions remain at left tackle and No. 2 receiver, but Chan Gailey might have the team he needs to break the curse in Buffalo. The Bills spent the draft loading up on defense, and with an effective leader in Ryan Fitzpatrick, a dynamic RB duo and strength in the trenches, the Bills are putting together a formula to fit today's mold in the NFL — a high-powered offense with an aggressive defensive front that can keep opponents off the scoreboard. Mario Williams will be under the spotlight, and if the prize of free agency lives up to the lofty expectations in Western New York, a return to the playoffs is a realistic goal.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
88	Aiken, Kamar	WR	6-2	213	1	UCF	2/0
	Anderson, Mark	DE	6-4	255	7	Alabama	16/1
	Asper, Mark	OG	6-7	325	R	Oregon	
50	Barnett, Nick	OLB	6-2	228	10	Oregon State	16/16
57	Batten, Danny	DE	6-4	250	2	South Dakota State	16/4
	Bradham, Nigel	LB	6-2	240	R	Florida State	
87	Brock, Kevin	TE	6-5	249	1	Rutgers	0/0
	Brooks, Ron	CB	5-11	188	R	LSU	
74	Brown, Colin	C	6-7	326	2	Missouri	10/1
31	Byrd, Jairus	FS	5-10	203	4	Oregon	16/16
	Carder, Tank	LB	6-2	237	R	TCU	
92	Carrington, Alex	DT	6-5	301	3	Arkansas State	16/6
83	Caussin, Mike	TE	6-5	243	2	James Madison	6/2
84	Chandler, Scott	TE	6-7	260	3	Iowa	14/9
30	Choice, Tashard	RB	5-10	210	5	Georgia Tech	6/0
17	Clowney, David	WR	6-0	188	3	Virginia Tech	0/0
	Corp, Aaron	QB	6-3	205	R	Richmond	
99	Dareus, Marcell	DT	6-3	331	2	Alabama	16/15
97	Dotson, Lionel	DE	6-4	286	3	Arizona	5/0
	Douglas, Chris	RB	5-9	213	R	Missouri State	
81	Easley, Marcus	WR	6-2	217	1	Connecticut	0/0
48	Eddins, Robert	DE	6-3	246	1	Ball State	1/0
98	Edwards, Dwan	DT	6-3	302	8	Oregon State	16/13
14	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	225	7	Harvard	16/16
73	Gilbert, Jarron	DT	6-5	289	2	San Jose State	0/0
27	Gilmore, Stephon	CB	6-0	190	R	South Carolina	
	Glenn, Cordy	OT	6-5	343	R	Georgia	
	Graham, T.J.	WR	6-0	180	R	North Carolina State	
80	Hagan, Derek	WR	6-2	210	7	Arizona State	4/1
75	Hairston, Chris	OLT	6-6	330	2	Clemson	13/7
72	Heard, Kellen	DT	6-6	339	2	Memphis	15/2
	Hill, Cris	DB	5-11	178	R	Virginia Tech	
	Howell, Delano	DB	5-11	198	R	Stanford	
22	Jackson, Fred	RB	6-1	216	6	Coe College	10/10
69	Jasper, Michael	OG	6-4	375	1	Bethel College (Tenn.)	0/0
91	Johnson, Spencer	DE	6-3	304	9	Auburn	16/11
13	Johnson, Stevie	WR	6-2	207	5	Kentucky	16/16
19	Jones, Donald	WR	6-0	208	3	Youngstown State	8/7
90	Kelsay, Chris	DE	6-4	263	10	Nebraska	12/12
67	Levitre, Andy	OLG	6-2	305	4	Oregon State	16/16
9	Lindell, Rian	PK	6-3	227	13	Washington State	8/0
	Madsen, Paul	OL	6-4	309	R	Colorado State	
82	Martin, Ruvell	WR	6-4	214	7	Saginaw Valley State	3/0
24	McGee, Terrence	CB	5-9	205	10	Northwestern St. (La.)	6/6
38	McIntyre, Corey	FB	6-0	245	8	West Virginia	16/1
21	McKelvin, Leodis	CB	5-10	185	5	Troy	16/6
59	McKillop, Scott	ILB	6-2	243	2	Pittsburgh	0/0
56	Merriman, Shawne	DE	6-4	261	7	Maryland	5/5
44	Miller, Prince	CB	5-9	207	2	Georgia	0/0
52	Moats, Arthur	OLB	6-2	250	3	James Madison	14/0
94	Moore, Kyle	DE	6-6	263	4	USC	4/0
8	Moorman, Brian	P	6-0	174	12	Pittsburg State (Kan.)	16/0
58	Morrison, Kirk	OLB	6-2	245	8	San Diego State	13/0
86	Nelson, David	WR	6-5	214	3	Florida	16/13
47	Nesbitt, Joshua	FS	6-1	213	1	Georgia Tech	0/0
89	Onobun, Fendi	TE	6-6	260	2	Houston	0/0
79	Pears, Erik	ORT	6-8	316	5	Colorado State	16/16
	Potter, John	PK	6-2	209	R	Western Michigan	
	Powell, Shawn	P	6-4	235	R	Florida State	
76	Rinehart, Chad	OG	6-5	321	5	Northern Iowa	16/12
26	Rogers, Justin	CB	5-11	181	2	Richmond	13/1
18	Roosevelt, Naaman	WR	6-0	199	3	Buffalo	11/0
93	Ross, Jay	DT	6-3	319	1	East Carolina	0/0
65	Sanborn, Garrison	LS	6-1	240	4	Florida State	16/0
	Sanders, Zebrie	OT	6-6	318	R	Florida State	
43	Scott, Bryan	OLB	6-1	220	10	Penn State	16/7
25	Searcy, Da'Norris	SS	5-11	216	2	North Carolina	16/3
55	Sheppard, Kelvin	ILB	6-2	244	2	LSU	16/9
16	Smith, Brad	QB-WR	6-2	213	7	Missouri	15/5
85	Smith, Lee	TE	6-6	265	2	Marshall	10/3
	Snow, David	OL	6-4	305	R	Texas	
28	Spiller, C.J.	RB	5-11	200	3	Clemson	16/11
	Sukay, Nick	DB	6-1	219	R	Penn State	
4	Thigpen, Tyler	QB	6-1	218	4	Coastal Carolina	3/0
96	Troup, Torell	DT	6-3	327	3	UCF	6/0
60	Urbik, Kraig	OG	6-5	324	3	Wisconsin	13/13
62	Vermiglio, Jake	OG	6-5	339	1	North Carolina State	0/0
51	White, Chris	OLB	6-3	238	2	Mississippi State	7/0
20	White, Johnny	RB	5-10	202	2	North Carolina	11/0
	Wild, Ian	DB	6-0	208	R	Mercyhurst (Pa.)	
23	Williams, Aaron	CB	6-0	199	2	Texas	9/6
	Williams, Garrick	LB	6-2	232	R	Texas A&M	
68	Williams, Keith	OG	6-5	330	1	Nebraska	0/0
95	Williams, Kyle	DT	6-1	303	7	LSU	5/5
	Williams, Mario	DE	6-6	292	7	North Carolina State	5/5
37	Wilson, George	SS	6-0	214	7	Arkansas	13/13
70	Wood, Eric	C	6-4	310	4	Louisville	9/9
71	Young, Sam	ORT	6-8	316	3	Notre Dame	4/0

3 NEW YORK Jets

2012 PREDICTION: 7-9 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

R. RYAN

HEAD COACH: Rex Ryan
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tony Sparano
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Pettine
OWNER: Woody Johnson
STADIUM: New Meadowlands Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 82,500
PLAYING SURFACE: Field Turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.newyorkjets.com

Rex Ryan predicted a Super Bowl berth heading into last season, and coming off back-to-back AFC championship losses, it wasn't a stretch, even for Ryan. Instead, the 2011 Jets ended in disastrous fashion with a three-game losing streak and a locker room in shambles.

The Jets had an up-and-down season, showing inconsistency similar to that of their quarterback, Mark Sanchez. Ryan's defense wasn't as stout as it had been, the run game was often abandoned and the pass protection was a mess. Then, after the season, we found out that Sanchez and WR Santonio Holmes, who remains with the club in '12, weren't talking, among other distractions.

This offseason, Ryan and GM Mike Tannenbaum have put the focus on regaining team chemistry. They re-signed leaders like Sione Pouha and Bryan Thomas, then made one of the highest-profile moves of the offseason — trading for QB Tim Tebow, the most polarizing player in the NFL.

Offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer left and the Jets hired ex-Dolphins head coach Tony Sparano to get the team back to its "ground and pound" mentality. After kicking the tires on Peyton Manning, the franchise decided to give Sanchez a contract extension, cementing him as the starter.

This is a crucial season for Ryan following a disappointing 2011 in which his brash style was questioned more than ever, and his players will have to do more than simply improve the locker room to get the Jets back to the playoffs. Patience is running out in the Big Apple.

GETTY IMAGES
DARRELLE REVIS

OFFENSE

Tony Sparano takes over a Jets offense looking to return to the "ground and pound" philosophy that Rex Ryan believes is the franchise's staple. Sparano will employ a power rushing attack to set up the vertical passing game. Mark Sanchez has the arm, but needs to be more consistent, and he will have Tim Tebow on his heels. Tebow is expected to run the "Wildcat," a favorite formation of both Sparano and Ryan, behind a veteran offensive line.

QUARTERBACKS

Things didn't get easier for Mark Sanchez in his third season, and he didn't make the jump that was expected based on the outpouring of confidence coming from the Jets' brass. He had career-bests in touchdown throws, touchdown runs, passer rating and completion percentage — but that percentage was only 56.7, as accuracy remains an Achilles' heel. His ball security has plenty of room for improvement as well — he lost eight fumbles and threw 18 interceptions. Sanchez is strong in the no-huddle and can throw on the move, but even then his consistency needs to get better. A new offensive coordinator should help, and a contract extension gives him breathing room, but having a backup like Tim Tebow is not going to do Sanchez any favors. Tebow has a strong arm and is extremely athletic, but his accuracy is much worse than Sanchez's, with a career completion percentage of 47.3. He shined

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
S LaRon Landry, WR Chaz Schilens, QB Tim Tebow.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
WR Plaxico Burress, CB Marquice Cole, S Brodney Pool, RB LaDainian Tomlinson, OLB Jamaal Westerman.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Shonn Greene

DEFENSIVE MVP
CB Darrelle Revis

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
WR Jeremy Kerley

POSITION BATTLE
No. 2 WR: Chaz Schilens vs. Stephen Hill

S. GREENE

D. REVIS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C+	B	C	A-	A	A-	A	B-

in the clutch last season, carrying Denver not only to the playoffs, but also an upset win over Pittsburgh thanks to an 80-yard touchdown strike. His role with the Jets will mainly be in the "Wildcat," but if Sanchez struggles, the cries for one of the game's most popular players will rain down in New York. Greg McElroy impressed last preseason before landing on injured reserve. He is a smart quarterback, but no more than a No. 3.

RUNNING BACKS

Rex Ryan held true to his promise of making Shonn Greene a bellcow back in 2011. Greene had career-high numbers across the board and finally showed some effectiveness as a receiver. He is strong between the tackles and gives a good second effort thanks to his power, but Greene lacks explosion. It took until Week Five before Greene eclipsed 60 yards rushing last season and he didn't show a nose for the endzone. Tony Sparano's run-first game plan should give Greene more opportunities to succeed. When Greene went down in Week 11, Joe McKnight got a chance to show his value, rushing for 59 yards and hauling in 62 receiving yards. McKnight has breakaway speed and is versatile, but he is not a complete back — he makes most of his contributions on special teams. Bilal Powell is a developmental, one-cut runner who could challenge for carries. Sixth-rounder Terrance Ganaway can spell Greene. He is strong and hits the hole hard but does not have breakaway speed. FB John Conner is a punishing blocker and a favorite of the coaching staff.

RECEIVERS

Santonio Holmes got a hefty contract last offseason and proceeded to make headlines for all the wrong reasons in 2011. He had a career-low 654 receiving yards and his receptions (51) were the fewest since his rookie season. Holmes did haul in eight touchdowns and enters 2012 as the team's clear-cut No. 1 receiver, but his attitude in the huddle, the locker room and the sideline caused riffs with a struggling offense. An outside-the-numbers receiver, Holmes has the speed to stretch the field and can make acrobatic catches. After deciding not to re-sign Plaxico Burress, the Jets added injury-prone Chaz Schilens, who has played a full season only once in his four-year career. He has the size to be a red-zone target for Mark Sanchez, who tends to overthrow receivers. Jeremy Kerley showed promise last season out of the slot. He is versatile, quick and a good route runner. To satisfy the need for a vertical threat, the Jets drafted WR Stephen Hill, who has explosive speed and a big frame to go up and get a jump ball. He is raw and lacks experience, but the upside is there. Hill, who played in a triple-option attack in college, will need to adapt quickly to an NFL offense. Patrick Turner has the size but hasn't shown much as a receiver. He is a good blocker, though. Jordan White was productive in college and could compete to be a possession receiver. TE Dustin Keller has the best rapport with Sanchez. He has seam-stretching abilities with good size and soft hands, and is also a solid blocker. Jeff Cumberland has an intriguing skill set as a pass catcher, but his season was cut short by a torn Achilles tendon.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

When C Nick Mangold missed time early in the season, the difference was noticeable. The rock of the line, Mangold is one of the elite centers in the league. He is strong at the point of attack and is an adept run blocker. OLT D'Brickashaw Ferguson has not missed a start in his six-year NFL career, showing his durability as one of the NFL's elite blind-side tackles. He did give up 9½ sacks last season but was not called for a hold. Ferguson is smart with long arms and has the quickness to keep speed rushers back. ORT Wayne Hunter drew a team-high 11 flags last season and was beaten often, a major drop-off from Damien Woody, who retired. The staff continued to show confidence in Hunter, and he does provide experience. Hunter, like the rest of the line, could get a boost by having Sparano, an ace O-line coach, on staff. OGs Matt Slauson and Brandon Moore help move the run game up the middle. Moore is a quiet, consistent leader of the unit. Slauson missed most of 2011 training camp, but he showed durability throughout the season and is tough on the interior. Vladimir Ducasse is a versatile, raw backup whom the team moved around last preseason between guard and tackle. He is likely to be the top backup at tackle, but could win the ORT spot in camp. Caleb Schlauderaff, Austin Howard and Dennis Landolt add depth.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Pittsburgh	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	San Francisco	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 8	Houston	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	at New England	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 28	Miami	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	BYE	
Nov. 11	at Seattle	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 18	at St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	New England	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 2	Arizona	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 17	at Tennessee	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 23	San Diego	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Buffalo	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to New York Jets

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Dallas	(-6.5)	27-24
Sept. 18	Jacksonville	(-9)	32-3
Sept. 25	At Oakland	(-2.5)	24-34
Oct. 2	At Baltimore	(+5)	17-34
Oct. 9	At New England	(+7.5)	21-30
Oct. 17	Miami	(-7)	24-6
Oct. 23	San Diego	(+1)	27-21
Oct. 30	BYE		
Nov. 6	At Buffalo	(+2.5)	27-11
Nov. 13	New England	(-2.5)	16-37
Nov. 17	At Denver	(-6.5)	13-17
Nov. 27	Buffalo	(-9.5)	28-24
Dec. 4	At Washington	(-3)	34-19
Dec. 11	Kansas City	(-10.5)	37-10
Dec. 18	At Philadelphia	(+3)	19-45
Dec. 24	New York Giants	(-2.5)	14-29
Jan. 1	At Miami	(+2)	17-19

DEFENSE

The Jets run an aggressive 3-4 man defense headed by Mike Pettine and Rex Ryan. With big bodies up front and an impressive duo at inside linebacker, Gang Green is stout against the run. The strength of the unit lies in the league's best cornerback tandem of Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie, who embody the physical defense with their play against opposing receivers.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Jets are young and deep up front and can confidently rotate players without a drop-off. NT Sione Pouha mans the middle and is extremely strong to clog the run, overpowering interior offensive linemen. Teams did not run with much success up the middle against the Jets. Pouha is also a good locker-room presence. As a rookie, Muhammad Wilkerson

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**DALL.**	**JAX.**	**@OAK.**	**@BALT.**	**@N.E.**	**MIA.**	**S.D.**	**@BUFF.**	**N.E.**	**@DEN.**	**BUFF.**	**@WASH.**	**K.C.**	**@PHIL.**	**N.Y.G.**	**@MIA.**	
Score	27-24	32-3	24-34	17-34	21-30	24-6	27-21	27-11	16-37	13-17	28-24	34-19	37-10	19-45	14-29	17-19	
Total net yards	360	283	439	150	255	296	318	348	378	318	318	266	314	241	331	374	4989
Rushing yards	45	101	100	38	97	104	162	126	110	83	138	101	159	94	105	129	1692
Passing yards	315	182	339	112	158	192	156	222	268	235	180	165	155	147	226	245	3297
Rushing plays	16	32	25	19	25	29	31	39	25	28	23	30	42	27	25	27	443
Sacks allowed	4	1	4	2	2	2	2	1	5	3	0	0	3	4	5	2	40
Had intercepted	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	3	18
Fumbles lost	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	16
Yards penalized	0	60	61	69	89	49	60	60	56	15	40	40	22	93	95	40	849
Punts	6	5	5	8	7	8	3	2	5	6	5	5	7	6	9	5	92

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	33:53	26:37	26:46	37:28	33:55	29:39	27:14	22:08	30:07	27:48	36:11	27:48	22:18	30:03	23:54	31:07	29:11
Total net yards	390	203	383	267	446	308	268	287	389	229	336	304	221	420	332	210	4993
Rushing yards	64	112	234	112	152	118	96	96	60	125	86	100	65	160	115	82	1777
Passing yards	326	91	149	155	294	190	172	191	329	104	250	204	156	260	217	128	3216
Rushing plays	26	27	32	40	35	25	25	22	28	34	28	23	21	33	26	26	451
Sacks allowed	4	2	1	2	4	4	1	0	0	1	3	2	5	3	2	1	35
Had intercepted	1	4	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	19
Fumbles lost	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	12
Yards penalized	40	50	55	46	50	10	95	84	80	51	85	50	128	62	45	35	966
Punts	6	5	6	7	4	7	4	4	4	8	7	6	7	4	9	4	92

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Conner			1-3-0	3-15-0	1-0-0			2-8-1		1-3-0	2-6-0	2-2-0		1-7-0			13-44-1
Greene	10-26-0	16-49-1	15-59-0	10-23-0	21-83-1	21-74-0	20-112-0	19-76-0	13-61-0	3-10-0	13-78-0	22-88-3	24-129-1	18-73-0	14-58-0	14-55-0	253-1054-6
Kerley			1-(-2)-0									1-6-0	1-2-0		1-6-0	1-16-0	5-28-0
McKnight		6-14-0			1-1-0		3-11-0	9-27-0		16-59-0	4-21-0	1-(-1)-0		3-2-0			43-134-0
Powell										7-11-0			6-10-0				13-21-0
Sanchez	1-3-0	3-29-0	2-2-1	3-3-0		1-5-1	3-25-0	4-(-3)-0	5-11-1	1-0-0	2-5-0	3-1-0	2-4-2	2-3-0	4-13-1	1-2-0	37-103-6
Tomlinson	5-16-0	6-8-0	6-38-0	3-(-3)-0	2-13-0	7-25-0	5-14-0	5-18-1	7-38-0			1-5-0	9-14-0	3-9-0	5-29-0	11-56-0	75-280-1

PASSING **

Sanchez	26-44-1 335-2	17-24-2 182-2	27-44-1 369-2	11-35-1 119-0	16-26-0 166-2	14-25-0 201-1	18-33-1 173-3	20-28-1 230-1	20-39-2 306-1	24-40-1 252-0	17-35-1 180-4	19-32-0 165-1	13-21-0 181-2	15-26-2 150-2	30-59-2 258-1	21-32-3 207-2	308-543-18 3474-26

RECEIVING

Baker								1-5-0					1-17-0		1-5-1		3-27-1
Burress	4-72-1		3-55-1	3-33-0	3-42-0	1-16-0	4-25-3	5-79-0	3-39-1	4-64-0	4-54-1	3-33-0		1-9-1	3-34-0	4-57-0	45-612-8
Greene	1-7-0	2-6-0	7-47-0		2-9-0	1-3-0	1-5-0		2-14-0	1-4-0	3-12-0	3-26-0	3-58-0	1-0-0	3-20-0		30-211-0
Holmes	6-70-0	3-42-1	1-19-0	3-33-0	4-60-1	3-63-1	2-24-0	3-29-1	6-93-0	4-39-0	2-22-1	4-58-1	2-12-1	4-40-1	4-50-0		51-654-8
Keller	5-61-1	6-101-1	5-87-0	2-12-0	1-7-0	2-51-0	4-53-0	4-64-0	2-37-0	5-40-0	4-61-2	3-12-0	4-34-0	3-73-0	8-77-0	7-45-1	65-815-5
Kerley					3-35-1	2-18-0	4-29-0	4-23-0	4-79-0			1-7-0		2-16-0	5-36-0	4-71-0	29-314-1
Mason	3-19-0	1-7-0	6-45-0	2-37-0	1-7-0												13-115-0
McKnight						2-29-0				6-62-0	3-19-0	1-2-0		1-27-0			13-139-0
Mulligan		2-8-0			1-4-0							1-5-0				1-41-0	5-58-0
Tomlinson	6-73-0	1-7-0	5-116-1	1-4-0	1-2-0	3-21-0	3-37-0	3-30-0	2-22-0			1-16-0	2-50-1	4-12-0	6-36-0	4-23-0	42-449-2
P. Turner									1-22-0	3-36-0	1-12-0	1-6-0	1-10-0			1-10-1	8-96-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

exceeded expectations at the five-technique spot. He started every game and led the team with 13 tackles for loss. Wilkerson is powerful and had a knack for getting into the backfield. Expected to start opposite Wilkerson is first-rounder Quinton Coples, who had top-10 talent but did not produce as a senior, which raised questions about his competitiveness. Coples is strong, powerful and quick off the ball with great size. He can play multiple positions and get after the passer. Veteran DE Mike DeVito missed some time with injury but is a tough run stopper. If Coples takes hold of the starting spot, DeVito could become a situational player. The brass remains high on Marcus Dixon, who is versatile and has good pass-rush skills. NT Kenrick Ellis has plenty of raw ability but needs more experience and must sharpen his technique. NT Martin Tevaseu adds depth.

LINEBACKERS

A linebacking group that had been consistent and stout for years had to deal with some shuffling last season. OLB Bryan Thomas missed most of the season with an Achilles injury and the run defense on the perimeter took a hit. Thomas, who was re-signed this offseason, won't fill up the stat sheet, but he helps others make plays. Calvin Pace, the team's best pass rusher, has a good first step, though his sack numbers were the lowest since he became a Jet in 2008. ILB Bart Scott had his lowest tackle total since 2004, and he was not pleased with coming off the field on passing downs. Scott is an intense, vocal leader who could see more opportunities to rush the passer this season. ILB David Harris is the star of the unit. His play might not be flashy, but his run-stopping abilities are respected around the league. He led the Jets in tackles and QB hits last season and finds a way to be around the ball. Josh Mauga comes on in the sub-package to help in coverage. Rookie Demario Davis will be used on the inside, and looks to be Scott's heir apparent. He is thickly built with speed to be effective, but he needs to improve his instincts. Aaron Maybin had a rebirth last season with the Jets after being written off as a bust in Buffalo. Displaying a quick get-off, Maybin had six sacks and four forced fumbles in '11. He still did not show enough to be an every-down player. Ricky Sapp has intriguing pass-rush tools but hasn't been able to get onto the gridiron.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Quinton Coples	DE	North Carolina	16
2	Stephen Hill	WR	Georgia Tech	43
3	Demario Davis	ILB	Arkansas State	77
6	Josh Bush	S	Wake Forest	187
6	Terrance Ganaway	RB	Baylor	202
6	Robert T. Griffin	OG	Baylor	203
7	Antonio Allen	SS	South Carolina	242
7	Jordan White	WR	Western Michigan	244

Q. COPLES

DEFENSIVE BACKS

It still isn't easy to throw against the Jets — at least to the top two receivers. Darrelle Revis remains arguably the best cornerback in the league. A fast, physical, instinctive corner with good ball skills, Revis rarely will give up a reception, let alone a big play. Only Bills WR Stevie Johnson was able to find consistent success against Revis last season. RCB Antonio Cromartie, can be a big playmaker with his speed, but he also takes chances and can get beat. Cromartie had four penalties in one game last season. At 6-foot-2, he has the length to battle with the league's big receivers. CB Kyle Wilson improved his game last season, thanks in large part to working with Revis. He is quick and can play inside. Behind Wilson are Isaiah Trufant and Ellis Lankster. Safety was a problem for the Jets last season, especially when Jim Leonhard went down with an injury. Eric Smith is physical in the box but couldn't match up with some of the league's top tight ends. With Leonhard gone, Smith is the vocal leader in the back end. Former Redskin LaRon

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE		
WR	10 HOLMES	11 Kerley	88 Turner
OLT	60 FERGUSON	77 Howard	
OLG	68 SLAUSON	72 Schlauderaff	66 Kroul
C	74 MANGOLD		
ORG	65 MOORE	76 Landolt	75 R. Griffin*
ORT	78 HUNTER	62 Ducasse	
TE	81 KELLER	86 Cumberland	83 Epps
WR	85 SCHILENS	84 Hill*	19 Riley
QB	6 SANCHEZ	15 Tebow	14 McElroy
RB	23 GREENE	25 J. McKnight	29 Powell
FB	38 CONNER	45 Baker	
	DEFENSE		
DE	96 WILKERSON	94 Dixon	
NT	91 POUHA	93 Ellis	95 Tevaseu
DT	98 COPLES*	70 DeVito	92 Richardson
LOLB	58 THOMAS	50 McIntyre	
LILB	57 SCOTT	53 Mauga	49 Davis*
RILB	52 HARRIS	54 Bellore	
ROLB	97 PACE	51 Maybin	55 Sapp
LCB	24 REVIS	20 K. Wilson	26 Lankster
RCB	31 CROMARTIE	35 Trufant	
SS	30 LANDRY	39 Allen*	
FS	33 E. SMITH	32 Bush*	37 T. Wilson
	SPECIALISTS		
P	4 CONLEY		
PK	2 FOLK	3 Brown	
H	4 CONLEY		
PR	11 KERLEY		
KR	31 CROMARTIE	25 J. McKnight	
LS	46 PURDUM		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Matt Cavanaugh, quarterbacks; Dave Deguglielmo, offensive line; Mike Devlin, tight ends/asst. offensive line; Karl Dunbar, defensive line; Justus Galac, asst. strength and conditioning; Bill Hughan, strength and conditioning; Ben Kotwica, asst. special teams; Sanjay Lal, wide receivers; Anthony Lynn, running backs; Jim O'Neil, asst. defensive backs; Mike Pettine, defensive coordinator; Paul Ricci, asst. strength and conditioning; Rex Ryan, head coach; Brian Smith, quality control/defense; Mike Smith, outside linebackers; Tony Sparano, offensive coordinator; Bob Sutton, asst. head coach/linebackers; Lance Taylor, asst. tight ends/quality control; Dennis Thurman, defensive backs.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
27	Adams, Royce	DB	6-0	190	1	Purdue	0/0
39	Allen, Antonio	S	6-1	210	R	South Carolina	
45	Baker, Josh	FB-TE	6-3	244	2	NW Missouri State	11/0
5	Baltz, Travis	P	6-3	210	1	Maryland	0/0
54	Bellore, Nick	LB	6-1	250	2	Central Michigan	16/0
56	Berning, Matthias	LB	6-0	236	1	Central Michigan	0/0
3	Brown, Josh	PK	6-0	202	10	Nebraska	16/0
32	Bush, Josh	S	5-11	205	R	Wake Forest	
	Chard, Derek	LS	6-3	237	1	Connecticut	0/0
4	Conley, T.J.	P	6-3	220	2	Idaho	16/0
38	Conner, John	FB	5-11	245	3	Kentucky	16/8
98	Copies, Quinton	DE	6-6	290	R	North Carolina	
31	Cromartie, Antonio	CB	6-2	210	7	Florida State	16/16
	Cullen, John	OL	6-5	300	R	Utah	
86	Cumberland, Jeff	TE	6-4	260	3	Illinois	3/0
	Davis, Demario	LB	6-2	239	R	Arkansas State	
70	DeVito, Mike	DE	6-3	305	6	Maine	12/11
94	Dixon, Marcus	DT	6-4	295	3	Hampton	16/3
	Dowtin, Marcus	ILB	6-2	226	R	North Alabama	
62	Ducasse, Vladimir	OL	6-5	325	3	Massachusetts	16/1
93	Ellis, Kenrick	DT	6-5	330	2	Hampton	5/2
83	Epps, Dedrick	TE	6-3	250	2	Miami (Fla.)	0/0
60	Ferguson, D'Brickashaw	OT	6-6	310	7	Virginia	16/16
	Fletcher, Donnie	CB	6-1	195	R	Boston College	
2	Folk, Nick	K	6-1	222	6	Arizona	16/0
87	Ganaway, DaMarcus	WR	6-2	185	1	Kentucky Wesleyan	0/0
42	Ganaway, Terrance	RB	6-0	239	R	Baylor	
23	Greene, Shonn	RB	5-11	226	4	Iowa	16/15
34	Griffin, John	RB	5-11	208	1	Massachusetts	0/0
75	Griffin, Robert T.	OL	6-6	330	R	Baylor	
52	Harris, David	LB	6-2	250	6	Michigan	16/16
	Harrison, Damon	DL	6-4	350	R	William Penn	
84	Hill, Stephen	WR	6-4	215	R	Georgia Tech	
10	Holmes, Santonio	WR	5-11	192	7	Ohio State	16/16
77	Howard, Austin	OT	6-7	333	3	Northern Iowa	0/0
78	Hunter, Wayne	OT	6-5	318	9	Hawaii	16/16
89	Jackson, Dexter	WR	5-9	182	2	Appalachian State	0/0
99	Jones, Eddie	LB	6-3	260	1	Texas	0/0
81	Keller, Dustin	TE	6-2	250	5	Purdue	16/12
11	Kerley, Jeremy	WR	5-9	188	2	TCU	14/1
	Kinne, G.J.	QB	6-2	234	R	Tulsa	
	Koloto, Fred	OL	6-3	297	R	San Jose State	
66	Kroul, Matt	OL	6-3	300	2	Iowa	0/0
76	Landolt, Dennis	OT	6-4	306	1	Penn State	0/0
30	Landry, LaRon	S	6-0	220	6	LSU	8/8
26	Lankster, Ellis	CB	5-9	190	3	West Virginia	7/0
	Linthicum, Brian	TE	6-5	245	R	Michigan State	
	Lynn, D'Anton	DB	6-1	208	R	Penn State	
74	Mangold, Nick	C	6-4	307	7	Ohio State	14/14
53	Mauga, Josh	LB	6-1	245	3	Nevada	16/1
51	Maybin, Aaron	LB	6-4	240	4	Penn State	13/0
14	McElroy, Greg	QB	6-2	220	2	Alabama	0/0
50	McIntyre, Garrett	LB	6-3	255	2	Fresno State	13/3
25	McKnight, Joe	RB	5-11	205	3	USC	15/0
16	McKnight, Scotty	WR	5-11	182	1	Colorado	0/0
65	Moore, Brandon	OG	6-3	305	10	Illinois	16/16
97	Pace, Calvin	LB	6-4	265	10	Wake Forest	16/16
	Pollard, Royce	WR	6-1	175	R	Hawaii	
21	Posey, Julian	CB	5-11	187	1	Ohio	0/0
91	Pouha, Sione	DT	6-3	325	8	Utah	16/15
29	Powell, Bilal	RB	5-10	204	2	Louisville	2/0
46	Purdum, Tanner	LS	6-3	270	3	Baker (Kan.)	16/0
24	Revis, Darrelle	CB	5-11	198	6	Pittsburgh	16/16
92	Richardson, Jay	DE	6-6	280	5	Ohio State	0/0
19	Riley, Eron	WR	6-3	207	1	Duke	0/0
	Robinson, Donovan	LB	6-3	250	R	Jackson State	
	Roy, Brett	LB	6-4	280	R	Nevada	
6	Sanchez, Mark	QB	6-2	225	4	USC	16/16
55	Sapp, Ricky	LB	6-4	252	2	Clemson	0/0
85	Schilens, Chaz	WR	6-4	225	5	San Diego State	15/5
72	Schlauderaff, Caleb	OG	6-4	302	2	Utah	6/1
57	Scott, Bart	LB	6-2	242	11	Southern Illinois	16/15
	Simms, Matt	QB	6-3	210	R	Tennessee	
68	Slauson, Matt	OG	6-5	315	4	Nebraska	16/16
22	Smith, DeAngelo	DB	5-11	200	2	Cincinnati	0/0
33	Smith, Eric	S	6-1	207	7	Michigan State	16/14
82	Smith, Hayden	TE	6-6	255	R	Metropolitan St. - Denver	
	Steed, Ryan	CB	5-11	185	R	Furman	
15	Tebow, Tim	QB	6-3	236	3	Florida	14/11
95	Tevaseu, Martin	DT	6-2	325	2	UNLV	5/0
58	Thomas, Bryan	OLB	6-4	260	11	UAB	4/3
35	Trufant, Isaiah	CB	5-8	170	2	Eastern Washington	13/0
88	Turner, Patrick	WR	6-5	220	4	USC	15/1
17	White, Jordan	WR	6-0	215	R	Western Michigan	
96	Wilkerson, Muhammad	DL	6-4	315	2	Temple	16/16
20	Wilson, Kyle	CB	5-10	190	3	Boise State	16/6
37	Wilson, Tracy	S	6-2	203	2	Northern Illinois	5/0

Landry was dominant in the first half of 2010 but has been bothered by an Achilles tendon injury ever since. He has ended the past two seasons on injured reserve. He is a hard hitter and can cover tight ends. A gifted athlete, Landry should fare well in the Jets' man scheme, but he needs to stay healthy. Rookie SS Antonio Allen is physical in the box and Josh Bush showed ball-hawking abilities with six interceptions as a senior.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mike Westhoff's unit had to replace key members last year but still was among the tops in the league in returns and coverage. Rookie ILB Nick Bellore leads the coverage units, though they will have to replace gunner CB Marquice Cole. PK Nick Folk is not spectacular but has come through with some clutch kicks. He will have to battle in camp to retain his job again, though, this time with veteran Josh Brown, who struggled last season with the Rams. P T.J. Conley was in the bottom half of the league in net punting average after winning the job in the preseason. Joe McKnight was stellar on kickoff returns, averaging 31.6 yards, including a 107-yard TD. He is explosive and also helps on the punt-block unit. Fumbles were an issue on punt returns for Jeremy Kerley, but he has the tools to be effective. Tim Tebow could contribute here as well.

SUMMARY

While some of the elite players in the league at their respective positions are on the Jets' roster, there is still a talent gap between Gang Green and the Patriots — and the Bills' upgrades even slide Buffalo ahead of the Jets, on paper. The pressure will be on Mark Sanchez to minimize mistakes and rally the offense with a new coordinator in Tony Sparano, but the defense needs to be the rock of the team and return to the fierce, aggressive unit we saw in '09 and '10. Another disappointing season in the hotbed of New York/New Jersey will not be good for Rex Ryan and Sanchez, but things won't be easy with a lack of playmakers on offense. Ryan is no longer predicting a Super Bowl — and that's probably a good thing — but this is still a club that can contend for the postseason.

4 MIAMI Dolphins

2012 PREDICTION: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 6-10 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. PHILBIN

HEAD COACH: Joe Philbin
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Sherman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Coyle
OWNER: Stephen M. Ross
STADIUM: Sun Life Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 75,540
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.miamidolphins.com

The Dolphins could not have gotten off to a worse start in 2011, a make-or-break year for Tony Sparano and Chad Henne, who are now no longer with the club.

Miami lost its first seven games and Henne went on injured reserve. Backup QB Matt Moore led the Dolphins to wins in three of four games, but a 26-10 loss to the Eagles in Week 14 led to the firing of Sparano. It was the Dolphins' third consecutive losing season, something that hadn't happened since 1969.

The offseason also was disappointing in South Florida. First, the team failed to land Jeff Fisher as head coach, settling on former Packers offensive coordinator Joe Philbin. Then, Miami couldn't lure QBs Peyton Manning or Matt Flynn in free agency, leading fans to call for GM Jeff Ireland's firing. The franchise QB of the future had to come via the draft in the form of inexperienced Ryan Tannehill.

Expectations are low heading into 2012, despite a strong finish to the previous season. The QB musical chairs that have gone on in South Florida since Dan Marino retired after the 1999 season will continue, with the hope that Tannehill can be groomed to end the drought under center. Plus, the team is without a No. 1 wideout after trading Brandon Marshall to the Bears.

The fans in Miami are restless, and a franchise that once was the class of the NFL has fallen on hard times. The Dolphins still have some talented veterans, particularly on defense, but Philbin has his work cut out for him in a competitive AFC East in his first season.

REGGIE BUSH

OFFENSE

The Dolphins' offense, run by Mike Sherman and head coach Joe Philbin, will feature a West Coast system. Sherman will be calling plays in the offense that will focus on a short-to-intermediate passing game to set up the big play. Reggie Bush and Daniel Thomas give Miami a two-headed attack in the backfield and bring different skill sets. OLT Jake Long is still elite, but the hogs as a whole need to do a better job of protecting the quarterback. The Dolphins have struggled to score points the past two seasons and Philbin was hired in large part to improve that side of the ball.

QUARTERBACKS

The Dolphins are without a permanent solution at quarterback. Joe Philbin said Matt Moore and David Garrard will enter camp in an open competition. Moore, who led the Dolphins to six wins in their final nine games, has yet to earn the confidence of the brass to be the starter. Moore is not afraid to take shots downfield and throws a good deep ball, but his risk-taking has led to accuracy issues in his career and he has been injury-prone. He has some athleticism to move the pocket. He also had a decent TD-to-interception ratio of 16-9 last season and had a passer rating greater than 122 in three games. Garrard comes to Miami after missing the entire 2011 season with an injured back. The Jaguars cut him before the season, handing the reins to Blaine Gabbert. Garrard threw

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

QB David Garrard, OT Artis Hicks, DB Richard Marshall, WR Legedu Naanee OLB Jamaal Westerman.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

CB Will Allen, SS Yeremiah Bell, QB Chad Henne, DE Kendall Langford, WR Brandon Marshall.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Reggie Bush

DEFENSIVE MVP
OLB Cameron Wake

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
WR Brian Hartline

POSITION BATTLE
QB: Matt Moore vs. David Garrard

R. BUSH

C. WAKE

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C	B+	D	B	B	B+	B-	A-

a career-high 23 TD passes in 2010. He has a strong arm and can scramble, but he takes a lot of sacks and durability is a big question mark. He will have to show little rust to have a chance to start. The future rests in the hands of No. 8 overall pick Ryan Tannehill, drafted to be the franchise signalcaller. He is athletic with a strong arm and good size, but he lacks experience — Tannehill began his college career as a receiver. Despite the desperation for a savior under center, Tannehill is the type of prospect that needs patience. The situation works out nicely for Tannehill, who should pick up Mike Sherman's system quickly after playing for Sherman at Texas A&M. Pat Devlin, an undrafted rookie in '11, has good size and intelligence but is a project.

RUNNING BACKS

Reggie Bush took full advantage of his first opportunity to be a primary back, rushing for a career-high 1,086 yards. He proved he could handle the heavier workload and was still effective as a receiver. Bush is explosive in space, and look for the Dolphins to continue finding creative ways to get him the ball in the open field. He showed he could run between the tackles, but Miami's better option for inside running is Daniel Thomas. He battled injuries as a rookie and needs to improve his blocking but is big with good instincts and soft hands. Steve Slaton has been unable to return to his rookie form from '08 but provides depth as a change-of-pace back. Lamar Miller slipped to the fourth round because of durability concerns but was once a top-50 prospect who is a one-cut, stretch-zone runner with excellent speed. Jerome Messam was a star in the CFL and could function as a fullback.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Oakland	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	New York Jets	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Arizona	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	BYE	
Oct. 28	at New York Jets	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Buffalo	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 25	Seattle	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	New England	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at San Francisco	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 16	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at New England	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Miami

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 12	New England	(+7)	24-38
Sept. 18	Houston	(+3)	13-23
Sept. 25	At Cleveland	(-2)	16-17
Oct. 2	At San Diego	(+6.5)	16-26
Oct. 9	BYE		
Oct. 17	At New York Jets	(+7)	6-24
Oct. 23	Denver	(+1)	15-18*
Oct. 30	At New York Giants	(+9.5)	17-20
Nov. 6	At Kansas City	(+5.5)	31-3
Nov. 13	Washington	(-4)	20-9
Nov. 20	Buffalo	(-3)	35-8
Nov. 24	At Dallas	(+7)	19-20
Dec. 4	Oakland	(-3)	34-14
Dec. 11	Philadelphia	(-3)	10-26
Dec. 18	At Buffalo	(0)	30-23
Dec. 24	At New England	(+7)	24-27
Jan. 1	New York Jets	(-2)	19-17

* Overtime

RECEIVERS

There is a big void at wide receiver after the Dolphins traded Brandon Marshall, who was far and away the team's top weapon the past two seasons. Brian Hartline will start on the outside. The speedy, heady receiver can stretch the field and came on strong late in 2011, but he has only five career touchdown catches and does not have the pedigree of a No. 1 wideout. In the slot, the Dolphins have one of the best in the business in Davone Bess, a solid route runner who can run after the catch. He has versatility to line up on the outside and is one of the top third-down receivers in the league, but his numbers took a big dip in '11. Veteran Legedu Naanee has good size to be a possession receiver. Clyde Gates has rare speed and leads a group of reserve receivers without much experience. Marlon Moore and Roberto Wallace, a pair of special-teamers, have both shown upside — Moore with his speed and Wallace with his size — but might have to battle to make the team. Rookies B.J. Cunningham, a big, strong West Coast receiver, and Rishard Matthews, who's strong after the catch, will compete to see time at the "Z" receiver. TE Anthony Fasano is a good blocker who has the size and hands to be an effective red-zone weapon, and he might see more targets as a receiver in Philbin's offense. Charles Clay has versatility that Philbin values. He showed speed last season gaining 14.6 yards per reception. Adding to the pass-catching TEs are Les Brown, a former basketball player with intriguing athleticism, and rookie Michael Egnew, a seam stretcher who can help attack the middle of the field. Jeron Mastrud and Will Yeatman are primarily blockers.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

OLT Jake Long, who had shoulder surgery before the 2011 season, missed the first games of his career, suffering back and biceps injuries at the end of the season. No one will question Long's toughness, and he still anchors Miami's line as one of the league's best blind-side tackles. His long arms and competitiveness help set him apart. Long had only one holding penalty last season. Long's bookend is yet to be determined. ORT Lydon Murtha showed promise filling in for Long at times in '10 and had a good training camp in '11 but missed the entire season with a foot injury. Murtha is athletic with long arms and the organization is high on him. Rookie OT Jonathan Martin will get a chance to start on the right side. He has good size, athleticism and versatility, but strength is a concern. John Jerry and Nate Garner will compete for the ORG spot. Jerry improved in 2011 after a shaky rookie season. Garner, who missed all of last season, has versatility and starting experience. OLG Richie Incognito is a consistent, violent player. C Mike Pouncey, last year's first-round pick, lived up to the billing manning the middle. He is strong and athletic, and at times was the most consistent O-lineman last season. Veteran OT Artis Hicks brings experience as a reserve.

DEFENSE

The aggressive defense we've seen in Miami under Mike Nolan gets a new coordinator in Kevin Coyle, who might use more hybrid fronts while still taking advantage of the talent the team has in the front seven. Randy Starks, Paul Soliai, Karlos Dansby and Cameron Wake help make up a formidable defensive front, and the corners are physical, but it's the back end of the defense that needs to be upgraded.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The defensive line lost Kendall Langford during free agency, but by re-signing DT Paul Soliai, the group up front remains arguably the strength

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**N.E.**	**HOU.**	**@CLEV.**	**@S.D.**	**@N.Y.J.**	**DEN.**	**@N.Y.G.**	**@K.C.**	**WASH.**	**BUFF.**	**@DALL.**	**OAK.**	**PHIL.**	**@BUFF.**	**@N.E.**	**N.Y.J.**	
Score	24-38	13-23	16-17	16-26	6-24	15-18	17-20	31-3	20-9	35-8	19-20	34-14	10-26	30-23	24-27	19-17	
Total net yards	488	306	369	248	308	267	246	351	303	242	352	362	204	448	374	210	5078
Rushing yards	98	153	138	72	118	94	145	107	103	95	89	209	109	254	121	82	1987
Passing yards	390	153	231	176	190	173	101	244	200	147	263	153	95	194	253	128	3091
Rushing plays	20	28	38	22	25	31	26	24	33	35	25	44	26	38	28	26	469
Sacks allowed	4	2	5	3	4	4	5	0	2	1	4	1	9	2	5	1	52
Had intercepted	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	13
Fumbles lost	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	3	1	0	12
Yards penalized	60	20	93	41	10	20	30	49	55	50	55	79	81	62	39	35	779
Punts	6	3	3	3	7	8	5	5	1	7	4	4	6	6	6	4	78
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	28:27	34:06	22:09	33:18	30:21	30:26	32:26	34:39	26:27	28:54	28:32	21:40	31:21	31:11	30:56	28:53	29:37
Total net yards	622	345	280	411	296	308	402	343	246	245	303	304	239	404	400	374	5522
Rushing yards	106	138	70	116	104	177	58	116	61	41	85	46	51	113	119	129	1530
Passing yards	516	207	210	295	192	131	344	227	185	204	218	258	188	291	281	245	3992
Rushing plays	22	36	19	28	29	40	23	34	16	19	23	14	32	19	31	27	412
Sacks allowed	1	3	0	2	2	6	1	5	3	2	1	2	4	3	4	2	41
Had intercepted	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	3	16
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Yards penalized	50	76	85	80	49	30	46	70	51	27	69	91	69	92	50	40	975
Punts	4	6	5	3	8	9	4	5	2	7	5	8	10	8	6	5	95
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Bush	11-38-0	6-18-0	10-13-0	13-50-0	10-71-0	10-42-0	15-103-0	13-92-1	14-47-2	15-32-1	16-61-0	22-100-1	14-103-0	25-203-1	22-113-0		216-1086-6
Henne	7-59-1	3-26-0	4-26-0	1-1-0													15-112-1
Hilliard	2-1-0		1-4-0	6-20-1			1-4-0			1-2-0		3-10-0	2-0-0				16-41-1
Marshall															1-13-0		1-13-0
Mat. Moore				1-(-1)-0		2-(-1)-0	5-31-1	4-3-0	2-14-0	3-2-0	3-3-0	5-22-1	1-1-0		3-(-8)-0	3-(-1)-0	32-65-2
Slaton				1-2-0			5-7-1									11-55-0	17-64-1
Thomas		18-107-0	23-95-0		15-47-0	19-53-0		7-12-0	17-42-0	15-50-0	6-25-0	13-73-0	7-4-0	11-42-0	2-3-0	12-28-0	165-581-0
**PASSING ** **																	
Henne	30-49-1 416-2	12-30-1 170-1	19-29-1 255-1	3-4-1 27-0													64-112-4 868-4
Mat. Moore				17-26-1 167-0	16-34-2 204-0	22-33-0 197-1	13-22-1 138-0	17-23-0 244-3	20-29-1 209-0	14-20-0 160-3	19-32-0 288-1	13-25-0 162-1	11-19-1 95-1	10-20-0 217-2	16-32-1 281-3	22-32-2 135-1	210-347-9 2497-16
RECEIVING																	
Bess	5-92-0	2-42-0	5-52-0	3-21-0	2-21-0	7-52-0	3-43-0	1-0-0	4-37-0	2-25-1	2-29-0	4-27-1	2-12-0		3-39-1	6-45-0	51-537-3
Bush	9-56-1	1-3-0	1-12-0	2-15-0	2-7-0	2-4-0	4-17-0	3-50-0	4-4-0	4-34-0	3-35-0		5-27-0	1-6-0	2-26-0		43-296-1
Clay				2-34-0		1-29-0	1-16-0	3-50-0	1-4-0	4-69-1	1-(-1)-0			1-30-0	1-1-1	1-1-1	16-233-3
Fasano	5-82-0		1-26-0	1-9-0	1-13-0	2-22-1		2-38-2	3-60-0	2-8-1	2-32-0	4-66-0	3-56-0	2-28-1		4-11-0	32-451-5
Gates				1-8-0							1-11-0						2-19-0
B. Hartline	4-47-1	2-36-0	4-87-0	3-31-0	3-27-0	2-29-0			1-6-0	1-19-0	4-77-0	1-9-0	1-24-0	3-69-0	4-72-0	2-16-0	35-549-1
Hilliard			1-8-0	1-18-0	1-15-0		1-7-0									1-1-0	5-49-0
Marshall	7-139-0	6-79-1	4-43-0	5-52-0	6-109-0	6-61-0	4-55-0	8-106-1	7-98-0	1-5-0	5-103-1	4-60-0	4-27-1	3-84-1	6-143-1	5-50-0	81-1214-6
Thomas		1-10-0	3-27-1		1-12-0	2-0-0					1-2-0		2-9-0			2-12-0	12-72-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

of the team. Soliai played the nose in Mike Nolan's 3-4 and is a stout, run-stuffing space eater. He's not much of a pass rusher, but he has been durable and likely will get a chance to play more 4-3 DT. Randy Starks' versatility will be key in Coyle's defense, as he will move inside in a "40" front. Starks played nose and end in Nolan's defense and has been productive, with at least three sacks in seven of his eight seasons. For the second offseason in a row, expectations are high for DE Jared Odrick and his pass-rushing abilities. He is strong, athletic and disruptive, and made plays down the stretch in 2011 after missing all but one game in his rookie campaign in '10. Tony McDaniel is a reliable reserve who can fill in on the interior and occupy blockers. Rookie DT Kheeston Randall is durable with a big frame.

LINEBACKERS

It's not entirely clear if Cameron Wake will predominantly rush from an end spot or standing up as an outside 'backer, but he will be key to the Dolphins' "D" as one of the league's best pass rushers. A high-motor player, Wake uses a quick first step to get into the backfield. He has good leverage at the point of attack, though he isn't very stout against the run. Karlos Dansby entered the 2011 season overweight, and when he got back in shape, the defense played better. A complete player when healthy, Dansby can play in coverage or be used on the blitz. He is intense, vocal and can lay the lumber. ILBs Dansby and Kevin Burnett will make up the "Mike" and "Will" linebacker spots when the team runs a "40" front, though it's unknown who will line up where. Burnett is talented with potential to be a playmaker. He provides a good complement to Dansby with his abilities in coverage but took a few weeks to get going in '11. Koa Misi didn't match the production he had in his rookie season and battled injuries. Jamaal Westerman comes over from the Jets to provide a pass-rush complement to Wake. Westerman is explosive with a good get-off, but he did not live up to expectations with the Jets last season. With a need for another pressure player, the Dolphins drafted Olivier Vernon, who is strong with an explosive get-off, but he will need time to develop. Jason Trusnik and Austin Spitler provide depth on the inside and are key on special teams. Rookie Josh Kaddu is an athletic, developmental 'backer.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Ryan Tannehill	QB	Texas A&M	8
2	Jonathan Martin	OT	Stanford	42
3	Olivier Vernon	DE	Miami (Fla.)	72
3	Michael Egnew	TE	Missouri	78
4	Lamar Miller	RB	Miami (Fla.)	97
5	Josh Kaddu	LB	Oregon	155
6	B.J. Cunningham	WR	Michigan State	183
7	Kheeston Randall	DT	Texas	215
7	Rishard Matthews	WR	Nevada	227

R. TANNEHILL

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The numbers did not match the talent the Dolphins had at cornerback last season. Vontae Davis missed four games with a hamstring injury, but remains in the upper tier of corners in the NFL, and the team sorely missed him when he was hurt. Davis is strong and physical with receivers, showing good quickness to stay with them. He is also adept in run support. Expectations were high for Sean Smith in 2011, but he gave up some big plays. Built like a safety, Smith has the size to match up with some of the league's top receivers but needs to be more consistent. The nickel spot is up in the air after Will Allen left via free agency. DB Richard Marshall, a free-agent pickup, could factor in at the nickel or at safety. He has plenty of starting experience with Carolina and Arizona, good ball skills and production. Safety is the defense's biggest weakness. Yeremiah Bell is gone, and his production will need to be replaced. Reshad Jones has had ups and downs in his two seasons. He has upside to be a playmaker but hasn't been too consistent. Tyrell Johnson comes over from Minnesota and is physically gifted, but has never lived up to expectations. Chris Clemons

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	82 HARTLINE	10 Gates	16 Cunningham*	
OLT	77 LONG	61 Barker		
OLG	68 INCOGNITO	69 Feinga		
C	51 POUNCEY	62 Cook	68 Incognito	
ORG	74 JERRY	75 Garner		
ORT	76 MURTHA	71 Martin*	73 Hicks	
TE	80 FASANO	89 Yeatman	84 Egnew*	
WR	15 BESS	19 Naanee	14 Mar. Moore	
QB	8 MATT MOORE	9 Garrard	17 Tannehill*	
RB	22 BUSH	33 Thomas	44 Miller*	
FB	42 CLAY	35 Messam		
DEFENSE				
DLE	98 ODRICK	78 McDaniel		
NT	96 SOLIAI	90 Baker		
DRE	94 STARKS	97 Randall*		
SLB	55 MISI	52 Westerman	50 Vernon*	
LILB	58 DANSBY	59 Guyton	53 Spitler	
RILB	56 BURNETT	93 Trusnik		
WLB	91 WAKE	57 Kaddu*		
LCB	21 DAVIS	31 Marshall	25 Wade	
RCB	24 S. SMITH	28 Carroll		
SS	26 JOHNSON	29 Culver		
FS	20 JONES	27 Wilson	30 Clemons	
SPECIALISTS				
P	2 FIELDS			
PK	5 CARPENTER			
H	2 FIELDS			
PR	15 BESS			
KR	10 GATES	28 Carroll		
LS	92 DENNEY			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Blue Adams, asst. defensive backs; Lou Anarumo, defensive backs; Charlie Bullen, defensive assistant; Dan Campbell, tight ends; David Corrao, defensive quality control/asst. linebackers; Kevin Coyle, defensive coordinator; George Edwards, linebackers; Dave Fipp, asst. special teams; Ben Johnson, offensive assistant; Darren Krein, strength and conditioning; Phil McGeoghan, asst. wide receivers; Chris Mosley, asst. offensive line; Jeff Nixon, running backs; Ken O'Keefe, wide receivers; Joe Philbin, head coach; Dave Puloka, asst. strength and conditioning; Darren Rizzi, special teams; Kacy Rodgers, defensive line; Mike Sherman, offensive coordinator; Zac Taylor, asst. quarterbacks; Jim Turner, offensive line.

was hurt to open last season and didn't start a game. Tyrone Culver also will factor into the mix after seeing extra time last season. CB Jimmy Wilson was thrust into different roles last season as a rookie. He intercepted a pass and showed a nose for the ball. He might factor into the rotation at free safety. CB Nolan Carroll has speed but has never shown enough to be more than a backup at cornerback and special-teams contributor.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Brandon Fields has a booming leg. He finished fourth in the NFL last season with a 41.1-yard net punting average and was tied for third with 32 punts dropped inside the 20-yard line. Dan Carpenter, like Fields, is well-built and has a strong leg. He is not afraid to attempt a long field goal. The coverage teams drastically improved last season compared to what they were in 2010. LBs Jason Trusnik and Austin Spitler and DBs Jimmy Wilson and Tyrone Culver helped lead those units. Davone Bess is a consistent punt returner and can break tackles, but he had three fumbles. Clyde Gates has the speed to break a kickoff return to daylight.

SUMMARY

If the season was won or lost based on the month of March, the Dolphins lost. After months of proclaiming they would find a franchise quarterback, they failed to lure a big fish to South Florida, and settled for a raw prospect in Ryan Tannehill, potentially overdrafting him because of the need for an answer at QB. The Dolphins won't use the word "rebuilding," but it's hard to have high expectations, especially with question marks remaining under center. Joe Philbin's offensive success was a big reason why he landed his first NFL head-coaching job, and he has a tough task ahead to turn around a struggling organization whose fan base is growing very impatient, especially with owner Stephen Ross and GM Jeff Ireland. This is a squad that will need to rely on its strengths — the front seven on defense and a talented playmaker in Reggie Bush — to get back above the .500 mark.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
95	Aaitui, Isaako	NT	6-4	315	1	UNLV	0/0
43	Agnew, Vincent	CB	5-10	192	1	Central Michigan	0/0
	Alecxih, Chas	DT	6-3	296	R	Pittsburgh	
90	Baker, Ryan	DL	6-5	295	4	Purdue	2/0
61	Barker, Will	OT	6-7	325	2	Virginia	0/0
15	Bess, Davone	WR	5-10	190	5	Hawaii	16/4
87	Brown, Les	TE	6-4	238	1	Westminster (Utah)	0/0
32	Brown, Marcus	CB	6-1	190	2	Arkansas State	0/0
	Brown, Terence	C	6-3	303	R	Brigham Young	
56	Burnett, Kevin	LB	6-3	240	8	Tennessee	16/16
22	Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	203	7	USC	15/15
5	Carpenter, Dan	PK	6-2	225	5	Montana	14/0
28	Carroll, Nolan	CB	6-1	202	3	Maryland	15/3
42	Clay, Charles	FB-TE	6-3	239	2	Tulsa	14/9
30	Clemons, Chris	S	6-1	210	3	Clemson	14/0
	Collins, Cameron	LB	6-2	241	R	Oregon State	
62	Cook, Ryan	OG-C	6-6	328	7	New Mexico	7/0
29	Culver, Tyrone	S	6-1	210	7	Fresno State	16/4
16	Cunningham, B.J.	WR	6-2	215	R	Michigan State	
58	Dansby, Karlos	LB	6-4	250	9	Auburn	16/16
21	Davis, Vontae	CB	5-11	203	4	Illinois	12/12
92	Denney, John	LS	6-5	255	8	Brigham Young	16/0
	Dennis, Derek	OG	6-3	315	R	Temple	
9	Devlin, Pat	QB	6-3	225	1	Delaware	0/0
84	Egnew, Michael	TE	6-5	251	R	Missouri	
80	Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	255	7	Notre Dame	15/15
69	Feinga, Ray	OG	6-4	337	3	Brigham Young	0/0
2	Fields, Brandon	P	6-5	245	6	Michigan State	16/0
49	Freeny, Jonathan	LB	6-2	242	1	Rutgers	0/0
	Fuller, Jeff	WR	6-4	223	R	Texas A&M	
75	Garner, Nate	OT	6-7	325	5	Arkansas	16/1
9	Garrard, David	QB	6-1	236	11	East Carolina	0/0
10	Gates, Clyde	WR	5-11	197	2	Abilene Christian	15/0
	Gray, Jonas	RB	5-9	223	R	Notre Dame	
59	Guyton, Gary	LB	6-3	245	5	Georgia Tech	13/6
82	Hartline, Brian	WR	6-2	195	4	Ohio State	16/10
73	Hicks, Artis	OT	6-4	325	11	Memphis	9/3
81	Hogan, Chris	WR	6-1	220	1	Monmouth (N.J.)	0/0
	Hughes, Trenton	DB	5-10	195	R	Maryland	
68	Incognito, Richie	OG-C	6-3	324	8	Nebraska	15/15
74	Jerry, John	OG	6-5	328	3	Mississippi	13/3
26	Johnson, Tyrell	S	6-0	207	5	Arkansas State	11/3
20	Jones, Reshad	S	6-1	214	3	Georgia	15/12
57	Kaddu, Josh	LB	6-3	239	R	Oregon	
36	Lawrence, Quinten	DB	6-0	184	3	McNeese State	0/0
77	Long, Jake	OT	6-7	317	5	Michigan	14/14
	Lyons, Shelly	LB	6-1	238	R	Arizona State	
31	Marshall, Richard	CB	5-11	198	7	Fresno State	16/9
71	Martin, Jonathan	OT	6-5	312	R	Stanford	
88	Mastrud, Jeron	TE	6-6	253	3	Kansas State	14/3
85	Matthews, Rishard	WR	6-0	217	R	Nevada	
	McCray, Kelcie	S	6-1	202	R	Arkansas State	
78	McDaniel, Tony	DL	6-7	310	7	Tennessee	12/1
38	Medlin, Richard	RB	5-11	200	1	Fayetteville State (N.C.)	0/0
35	Messam, Jerome	RB-FB	6-3	245	1	Graceland (Iowa)	0/0
44	Miller, Lamar	RB	5-11	212	R	Miami (Fla.)	
55	Misi, Koa	OLB	6-3	251	3	Utah	12/9
14	Moore, Marlon	WR	6-0	190	3	Fresno State	6/0
8	Moore, Matt	QB	6-3	203	6	Oregon State	13/12
	Moye, Derek	WR	6-4	209	R	Penn State	
76	Murtha, Lydon	OT	6-7	315	4	Nebraska	0/0
19	Naanee, Legedu	WR	6-2	220	6	Boise State	15/10
98	Odrick, Jared	DL	6-5	304	3	Penn State	16/7
51	Pouncey, Mike	C	6-5	303	2	Florida	16/16
11	Pruitt, Julius	WR	6-2	206	2	Ouachita Baptist	9/0
97	Randall, Kheeston	DL	6-5	307	R	Texas	
	Root, Jarrell	DE	6-3	270	R	Boise State	
40	Russell, Anderson	DB	6-0	205	2	Ohio State	0/0
	Samuda, Josh	OG	6-3	310	R	Massachusetts	
	Scott, Kevyn	DB	5-10	204	R	Syracuse	
	Shelby, Derrick	DE	6-2	266	R	Utah	
23	Slaton, Steve	RB	5-9	199	5	West Virginia	3/0
	Smith, Jacquies	DE	6-2	253	R	Missouri	
24	Smith, Sean	CB	6-3	214	4	Utah	16/16
96	Soliai, Paul	DT	6-4	355	6	Utah	16/12
53	Spitler, Austin	LB	6-2	243	3	Ohio State	16/0
94	Starks, Randy	DL	6-3	305	9	Maryland	16/15
17	Tannehill, Ryan	QB	6-4	222	R	Texas A&M	
34	Thigpen, Marcus	RB	5-9	193	1	Indiana	0/0
33	Thomas, Daniel	RB	6-1	228	2	Kansas State	13/2
93	Trusnik, Jason	LB	6-4	250	6	Ohio Northern	16/0
50	Vernon, Olivier	OLB	6-2	261	R	Miami (Fla.)	
	Waldron, Dustin	OT	6-5	305	R	Portland State	
25	Wade, Jonathan	CB	5-11	200	6	Tennessee	2/0
91	Wake, Cameron	OLB	6-3	250	4	Penn State	16/14
18	Wallace, Roberto	WR	6-4	225	3	San Diego State	2/0
52	Westerman, Jamaal	OLB	6-3	255	4	Rutgers	16/3
27	Wilson, Jimmy	CB	5-11	185	2	Montana	15/1
89	Yeatman, Will	TE	6-6	268	2	Maryland	3/2

BALTIMORE Ravens

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 12-4 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. HARBAUGH

HEAD COACH: John Harbaugh
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Cam Cameron
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dean Pees
OWNER: Steve Bisciotti
STADIUM: M&T Bank | **CAPACITY:** 71,008
PLAYING SURFACE: Sportexe Momentum Turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.baltimoreravens.com

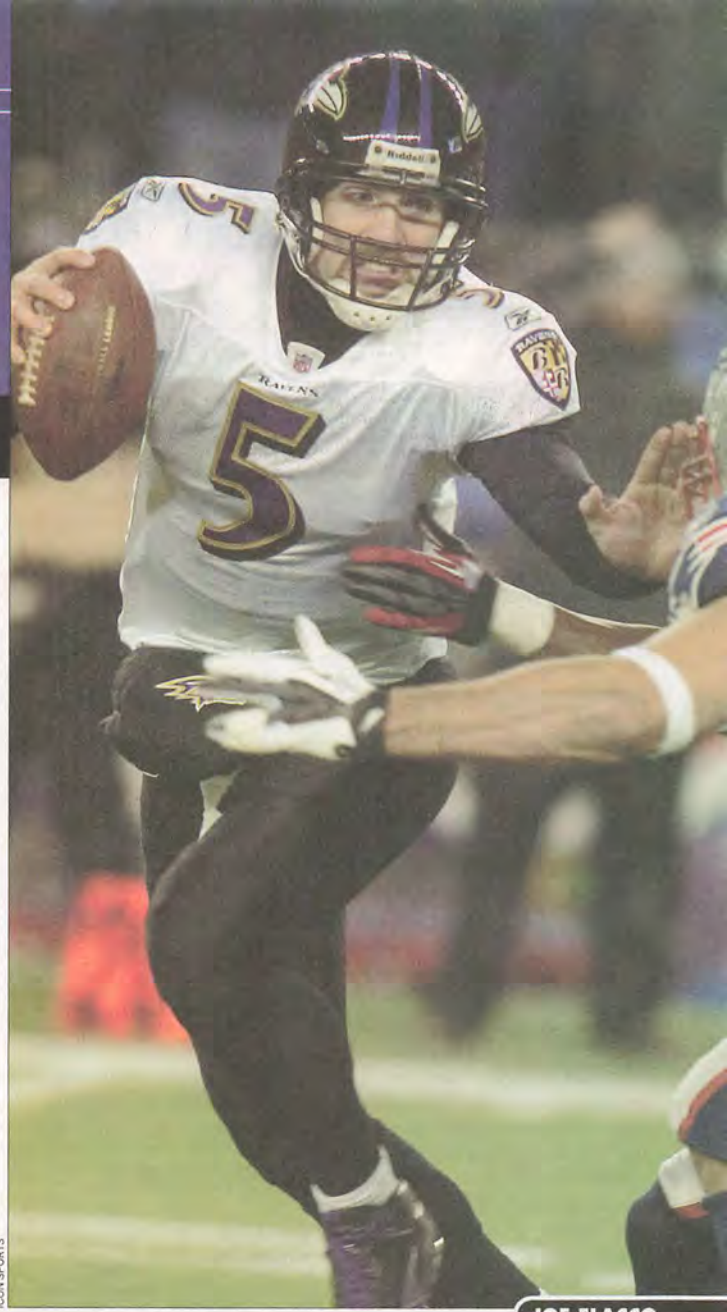
The Ravens are the only NFL team to have made the playoffs in each of the last four seasons. Even more impressively, they have won at least one postseason game in each of those years.

Yet, for all their success, a Super Bowl trip has remained elusive for the Ravens ever since the 2000 club used a dominant defense and a timely offense to win the title. They barely missed winning their first AFC title since then, falling three points shy of New England last season after a potential TD catch was knocked away and a late 32-yard FG attempt to tie sailed wide left.

The Ravens' competitiveness cannot be disputed. They can play with any team in the NFL. They can win in a variety of ways. Their defense is one of the best stop units in the league, and their often-criticized offense was nonetheless up to the task in the AFC championship game, with QB Joe Flacco looking very sharp.

The Ravens lost three key starters in free agency: OLG Ben Grubbs, OLB Jarret Johnson and DE Cory Redding. Also, OLB Terrell Suggs suffered an Achilles injury in April and is likely to miss at least some of the regular season. These are no small losses.

The Ravens are accustomed to patching such holes and marching on as one of the NFL's more consistent contenders. History, and their current form, suggests they will remain playoff-caliber. But will the Lombardi Trophy ever be close enough for this tough, talented Ravens club to touch?


ICON SPORTS
JOE FLACCO

OFFENSE

Offensive coordinator Cam Cameron's scheme mixes zone-rushing and vertical passing games. This offense can be fun to watch when it is clicking. RB Ray Rice is skilled, tough and versatile — a blue-chip back. Also, QB Joe Flacco throws a beautiful deep ball. However, this attack can get bogged down when the pass protection breaks down and receivers are covered well.

QUARTERBACKS

Joe Flacco does not lack for confidence, and he does not lack for detractors; such is life for an NFL starting quarterback. First, the good side of the ledger: Flacco has never missed an NFL game. He has a strong arm. He has excellent size for the position, and while he's far from a running threat, he moves decently when he needs to buy time. His mechanics are solid. He has five playoff wins to his credit, and he has played well in some big games, with a 306-yard, two-TD performance in the AFC title-game loss at New England. The knocks on Flacco? His completion percentage decreased in 2011 and ranked 25th among qualifying quarterbacks. Also, he does not possess special escapability. On balance, Flacco is an above-average starter at a key position, and though not yet elite, he is entering his prime. The Ravens' interest in signing him long-term makes a lot of sense given his production and potential. The franchise,

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

S Sean Considine, CB Corey Graham, QB Curtis Painter.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

CB Chris Carr, WR Lee Evans, OLG Ben Grubbs, OLB Jarret Johnson, S Haruki Nakamura, DE Cory Redding, RB Ricky Williams, S Tom Zbikowski.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Ray Rice

DEFENSIVE MVP
DT Haloti Ngata

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
WR Torrey Smith

POSITION BATTLE
OLG: Open competition

R. RICE

H. NGATA

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	B	B-	C	B	A-	A	B

which has relied on short-term veteran fixes at the QB position with limited success, has never had a passer with this much promise. Top backup QB Tyrod Taylor is athletic, possesses a strong arm and has some upside, but he's untested. Ex-Colt Curtis Painter has good arm strength but below-average accuracy and is best as a No. 3 quarterback.

RUNNING BACKS

Ray Rice is a three-down, Pro Bowl-quality running back. Rice, who has averaged a little more than 1,300 yards rushing in his three seasons as the Ravens' starter, is quick to the hole, strong in the trenches and fast enough to run away from the secondary if he breaks free. The 5-8, 212-pound Rice has uncommon strength for his size and can carry a heavy workload. Moreover, he is a very good pass catcher, averaging more than 70 catches the past three seasons. Durable and dependable, he hasn't missed a game over that span. Although Rice does have some long speed, he's not an elite game breaker, and he has been held in check the past two postseasons. Rice, who received the franchise tag, is seeking a long-term contract. FB Vonta Leach is one of the game's top blocking backs, a seeker and destroyer of linebackers. He is an infrequent ballcarrier and pass catcher. The depth behind Rice is shaky. Rookie Bernard Pierce has pro size and run skills but will need to develop a pro's toughness if he's to reach his potential. Second-year pros Anthony Allen and Damien Berry are also in the mix. Allen and Berry run hard but are not especially fast.

RECEIVERS

Torrey Smith showed significant promise as a rookie in 2011, catching 50 passes for 841 yards and seven TDs. Smith has game-changing ability, possessing the speed to take the top off a defense. Considering his quicks and Joe Flacco's strong arm, the Ravens' vertical passing game can stress a secondary like few others. Smith works hard and proved capable of handling a major role in Year One after WR Lee Evans left the lineup with an injury. It is quite possible Smith has not reached his ceiling, and he could be a very good pro for the foreseeable future if he continues to develop. He will need to improve his all-around game and catch the ball better to become truly elite, but his career is off to a flying start. The Ravens' other starting wideout, Anquan Boldin, is a solid short-and-intermediate target whose toughness, physicality and experience can make him a tough matchup, but he has lost a step and turns 32 years old in October. Third-year TEs Ed Dickson and Dennis Pitta are also key parts of the passing game. Neither blocks especially well, but they can be deployed like wide receivers, giving the Ravens some schematic flexibility. Both players must be respected as receiving threats and can create matchup problems. Dickson is a little faster and looks like a pumped-up wide receiver. Pitta has a good rapport with Flacco and really came on in 2011. Rookie Tommy Streeter, second-year pros Tandon Doss and Laquan Williams and third-year pro David Reed provide WR depth. Streeter has upside to develop and could become a field-stretching threat but needs seasoning. Doss is a quick possession receiver, and Reed and Williams are mostly special-teams contributors.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The right side is the strength of the Ravens' line. ORG Marshal Yanda, who earned Pro Bowl honors for the first time in 2011, is stout and athletic. He allowed 2¼ sacks in regular-season games in '11, per STATS LLC. ORT Michael Oher is athletic, versatile and well-rounded. He can play left or right tackle, though he appears best-suited for the right side. The Ravens gained 5.14 yards per carry rushing off right tackle a season ago. Penalties are a concern for Oher — he committed 10 in 2011. OLT Bryant McKinnie can be tough to deal with if he can get his hands on his opponent and use his size to his advantage, and he can open some big holes in the running game, but his conditioning is a concern. Losing OLG Ben Grubbs to New Orleans was a blow to the line. Second-year pro Jah Reid could replace him. Reid has good size and long arms but is not especially athletic, and he will have to make the transition from tackle. He also could be the first option to move to either OT spot in the event of an injury to the starters. Second-round pick Kelechi Osemele is expected to compete with Reid at left guard. He has ideal size, strength and athleticism, but his motivation will be key, and it will be interesting to see if he can make an impact early. Osemele also can play tackle. C Matt Birk is durable and dependable, but he will be 36 years old at the start of the season, and the Ravens will soon need to find his replacement. Tough and smart fourth-round pick Gino Gradkowski, the brother of Bengals backup QB Bruce Gradkowski, will provide depth at center and guard. He could be the heir apparent to Birk. Backup OT Ramon Harewood has excellent size for the position but has spent both of his first two NFL seasons on injured reserve. Justin Boren, whose grit is an asset, could vie for a reserve spot inside.

DEFENSE

The Ravens will have their fourth different defensive coordinator in the past four years. Dean Pees replaces Chuck Pagano, who took the Colts' head-coaching job. Pees will oversee a sound, physical,

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 10	Cincinnati	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	New England	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 27	Cleveland	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	BYE	
Nov. 4	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	Oakland	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Pittsburgh	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 25	at San Diego	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 2	Pittsburgh	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Washington	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Denver	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	NY Giants	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Baltimore

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Pittsburgh	(-1.5)	35-7
Sept. 18	At Tennessee	(-6)	13-26
Sept. 25	At St. Louis	(-5.5)	37-7
Oct. 2	New York Jets	(-5)	34-17
Oct. 9	BYE		
Oct. 16	Houston	(-7)	29-14
Oct. 24	At Jacksonville	(-10)	7-12
Oct. 30	Arizona	(-11.5)	30-27
Nov. 6	At Pittsburgh	(+3.5)	23-20
Nov. 13	At Seattle	(-7)	17-22
Nov. 20	Cincinnati	(-7)	31-24
Nov. 24	San Francisco	(-3.5)	16-6
Dec. 4	At Cleveland	(-7)	24-10
Dec. 11	Indianapolis	(-16)	24-10
Dec. 18	At San Diego	(-2)	14-34
Dec. 24	Cleveland	(-11)	20-14
Jan. 1	At Cincinnati	(-3)	24-16
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 15	Houston	(-7.5)	20-13
Jan. 22	At New England	(+7)	20-23

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	PITT.	@TEN.	@ST.L.	N.Y.J.	HOU.	@JAX.	ARIZ.	@PITT.	@SEA.	CIN.	S.F.	@CLEV.	IND.	@S.D.	CLEV.	@CIN.	
Score	35-7	13-26	37-7	34-17	29-14	7-12	30-27	23-20	17-22	31-24	16-6	24-10	24-10	14-34	20-14	24-16	
Total net yards	385	229	553	267	402	146	405	356	323	373	253	448	358	290	284	347	5419
Rushing yards	170	45	168	112	113	34	107	67	75	105	92	290	146	89	162	221	1996
Passing yards	215	184	385	155	289	112	298	289	248	268	161	158	212	201	122	126	3423
Rushing plays	31	17	26	40	30	12	26	27	12	28	35	55	37	14	37	32	459
Sacks allowed	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	0	1	2	7	1	1	33
Had intercepted	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	12
Fumbles lost	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	12
Yards penalized	75	44	32	46	25	85	99	20	34	69	20	18	40	25	51	59	742
Punts	5	5	2	7	2	9	5	2	4	8	4	3	3	2	5	7	73

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	27:29	35:52	28:49	22:32	27:48	36:15	30:18	26:01	35:01	32:53	28:52	22:26	23:52	34:12	27:42	30:34	29:25
Total net yards	312	432	244	150	293	205	207	392	327	483	170	233	167	415	256	336	4622
Rushing yards	66	74	112	38	93	132	109	70	119	119	74	59	50	145	117	105	1482
Passing yards	246	358	132	112	200	73	98	322	208	364	96	174	117	270	139	231	3140
Rushing plays	16	29	26	19	25	42	30	20	42	30	21	17	16	37	25	24	419
Sacks allowed	4	0	5	2	4	4	6	1	1	2	9	3	4	0	2	1	48
Had intercepted	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	15
Fumbles lost	4	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Yards penalized	53	70	117	69	15	90	92	69	100	43	97	37	15	35	95	35	1032
Punts	4	3	8	8	6	7	6	3	5	7	5	8	6	0	6	4	86

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Allen			3-8-0														3-8-0
Flacco			8-27-0	3-(-3)-0	3-(-1)-1		4-15-0		2-8-0	3-(-2)-0	6-2-0	4-(-1)-0		1-12-0	4-30-0	1-1-0	39-88-1
Leach					2-5-0	1-1-0					1-2-0	4-12-0	3-14-0			1-1-0	12-35-0
D. Reed									1-16-0								1-16-0
Rice	19-107-1	13-43-0	9-81-0	25-66-1	23-101-0	8-28-0	18-63-3	18-43-1	5-27-0	20-104-2	21-59-0	29-204-1	26-103-1	10-57-0	23-87-0	24-191-2	291-1364-12
T. Smith			1-10-0						1-16-0			1-(-3)-0	1-16-0				4-39-0
T.Taylor												1-2-0					1-2-0
R. Williams	12-63-0	4-2-0	5-42-0	12-49-0	2-8-1	3-5-0	4-29-0	9-24-0	3-8-0	5-3-0	7-29-0	16-76-1	7-13-0	3-20-0	10-45-0	6-28-0	108-444-2

PASSING **

Flacco	17-29-0 224-3	15-32-2 197-1	27-48-0 389-3	10-31-1 163-0	20-33-1 305-0	21-38-1 137-1	31-51-1 336-0	28-47-0 300-1	29-52-1 255-1	17-27-1 270-2	15-23-0 161-1	10-23-0 158-0	23-31-1 227-2	23-34-2 226-2	11-24-1 132-2	15-19-0 130-1	312-542-12 3610-20

RECEIVING

Boldin	4-74-1	3-46-0	7-74-0	1-28-0	8-132-0	4-40-1	7-145-0	7-88-0	2-22-0	1-35-1	4-63-0	2-32-0	5-57-0	2-51-0			57-887-3
Dickson	5-59-1	2-25-0	5-51-0	4-45-0	2-20-0	4-23-0	6-46-0	2-8-0	10-79-2	2-21-0	1-15-0	3-47-0	2-19-0	3-36-1	2-14-1	1-20-0	54-528-5
Evans		2-45-0									1-8-0		1-21-0				4-74-0
Flacco						1-(-8)-0											1-(-8)-0
Leach	1-0-0	1-4-0	3-11-0			1-2-0		1-5-0		2-1-0	1-10-0	1-11-0	1-7-0		2-11-0	1-7-0	15-69-0
Pitta	2-45-0	2-24-0		1-14-0	2-9-0	3-13-0	6-44-0	5-46-0	4-49-0		2-19-1	1-26-0	3-29-1	3-25-0		6-62-1	40-405-3
Rice	4-42-1	5-53-1	5-83-0	2-64-0	5-60-0	5-35-0	7-36-0	5-43-0	8-54-0	5-43-0	3-24-0	2-10-0	6-46-0	9-55-0	3-48-1	2-8-0	76-704-3
T. Smith			5-152-3	1-1-0	3-84-0	3-32-0	3-57-0	5-71-1	3-28-0	6-165-1	2-23-0	1-32-0	5-48-1	6-77-1	2-38-0	5-33-0	50-841-7
L. Williams			1-7-0	1-11-0				2-28-0									4-46-0
R. Williams	1-4-0		1-11-0				2-8-0	1-11-0	3-24-0	1-5-0	1-(-1)-0			1-0-0	2-21-0		13-83-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

ferocious defense that annually ranks among the NFL's best. Subtle changes are likely, but the Ravens figure to keep their base 3-4 front.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DT Haloti Ngata can impact the game like few interior linemen can. He is massive, powerful, athletic and versatile. He is stout vs. the run, and he has a good deal of pass-rush ability. The Ravens can move him around the line to exploit favorable matchups. He played through a thigh injury last season, not missing any games. NT Terrence Cody is a solid starter who plays his role well. He's a massive run stuffer but not a rush threat. With DE Cory Redding signing with Indianapolis, the Ravens will turn to Pernell McPhee and Arthur Jones to play bigger roles. McPhee, who notched six sacks as a rookie in 2011, has intriguing potential. He is strong and quick and can be a tough matchup whether he's aligned over a guard or a tackle. Jones notched 20 tackles in 14 games a season ago. Ma'ake Kemoeatu, Ryan McBean and DeAngelo Tyson add depth.

2011 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
2	Courtney Upshaw	OLB	Alabama	35
2	Kelechi Osemele	OT-OG	Iowa State	60
3	Bernard Pierce	RB	Temple	84
4	Gino Gradkowski	C	Delaware	98
4	Christian Thompson	FS	South Carolina State	130
5	Asa "Ace" Jackson	CB	Cal Poly	169
6	Tommy Streeter	WR	Miami (Fla.)	198
7	DeAngelo Tyson	DL	Georgia	236

C. UPSHAW

LINEBACKERS

The Ravens could be without star ROLB Terrell Suggs for an extended period, and perhaps even the entire 2012 season, after he suffered an Achilles injury in April. Paul Kruger, Courtney Upshaw and Sergio Kindle are among those who will be counted on to pick up the slack in Suggs' absence. Powerful and explosive, Suggs is capable of getting sacks in bunches, and the Ravens have to hope their other edge rushers will step up their play. Adding to the challenge, the Ravens have to replace tough, steady OLB Jarret Johnson, who signed with San Diego. Kruger showed some nice pass-rushing potential a season ago but will need to pick up his all-around game. Second-round pick Courtney Upshaw could be on the fast track to the starting lineup. Upshaw is a tenacious, energetic, power-leverage rusher who's well-suited for this scheme. He could have an immediate impact if things are kept simple for him and he quickly learns how to prepare like a professional. Kindle played little in 2011, his first season back after suffering a head injury the previous year. The 2010 second-rounder was once a well-regarded pass-rush prospect. LILB Ray Lewis' intangibles are a major asset at this stage of his career. His intelligence, instincts, toughness and leadership ability stand out. RILB Jameel McClain took on added responsibility when Lewis was out with an injury late last season and fared well. Dannell Ellerbe and Albert McClellan provide depth inside, as does Brendon Ayanbadejo, who runs well and is a key special-teams contributor.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

FS Ed Reed still can make the game-tilting interception; his playmaking ability is the stuff of legend. Instincts and experience are in his corner. However, he does not have great foot speed, and he's not the tackler he once was. LCB Lardarius Webb earned a lucrative new contract after his breakout 2011 season, when he intercepted five passes in the regular season and another three in two postseason games. He's quick and instinctive and has some major route-jumping ability. However, he is on the small side for the position. RCB Cary Williams comes off his best season, with 16 starts and 18 passes defensed, but second-year pro Jimmy Smith could push him for more playing time this season. Smith has excellent size and length but still has a ways to go in his development, and opponents made some big plays at his expense in his first NFL season.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE		
WR	82 T. SMITH	16 D. Reed	15 L. Williams
OLT	78 McKINNIE	76 Reid	70 Harewood
OLG	76 REID	72 Osemele*	66 Gradkowski*
C	77 BIRK	66 Gradkowski*	67 Boren
ORG	73 YANDA	72 Osemele*	67 Boren
ORT	74 OHER	72 Osemele*	76 Reid
TE	84 DICKSON	88 Pitta	80 Drew
WR	81 BOLDIN	17 Doss	11 Streeter*
QB	5 FLACCO	2 Taylor	8 Painter
RB	27 RICE	30 Pierce*	35 Allen
FB	44 LEACH		
	DEFENSE		
DT	92 NGATA	97 Jones	McBean
NT	62 CODY	96 Kemoeatu	93 Tyson*
DE	90 McPHEE	97 Jones	93 Tyson*
RUSH	99 KRUGER	50 McClellan	55 Suggs
WILL	53 McCLAIN	59 Ellerbe	51 Ayanbadejo
MIKE	52 LEWIS	51 Ayanbadejo	50 McClellan
SAM	91 UPSHAW*	94 Kindle	47 Ch. Williams
LCB	21 WEBB	22 J. Smith	23 Brown
RCB	29 CA. WILLIAMS	24 Graham	25 Jackson*
SS	31 POLLARD	37 Considine	
FS	20 E. REED	26 Cook	33 Thompson*
	SPECIALISTS		
P	4 KOCH		
PK	7 CUNDIFF		
H	4 KOCH		
PR	21 WEBB	25 Jackson*	
KR	16 D. REED	25 Jackson*	
LS	46 COX		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Teryl Austin, secondary; Clarence Brooks, defensive line; Jason Brooks, quality control/offense; Jim Caldwell, quarterbacks; Cam Cameron, offensive coordinator; John Dunn, asst. strength and conditioning; John Harbaugh, head coach; Wade Harman, tight ends; Chris Hewett, asst. special teams; Jim Hostler, wide receivers; Don Martindale, inside linebackers; Andy Moeller, offensive line; Ted Monachino, linebackers; Wilbert Montgomery, running backs; Dean Pees, defensive coordinator; Bob Rogucki, strength and conditioning; Jerry Rosburg, asst. head coach/special teams; Craig Ver Steeg, senior offensive assistant; Todd Washington, asst. offensive line; Matt Weiss, defensive assistant.

Williams, who has worked his way into a starting role after several years as a reserve, could be tough to overtake if he plays to his 2011 form. SS Bernard Pollard is physical and stout vs. the run. He has struggled against the pass but fits this defense well. Corey Graham, Chykie Brown, Danny Gorrer and Asa Jackson are reserve options at cornerback. Christian Thompson, Sean Considine and Emanuel Cook are backups at safety. Graham has good size and would be a solid fourth option at the CB position. Jackson is small but quick. Thompson runs very well but needs seasoning. Considine was a one-time starter in Philadelphia.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Billy Cundiff wasn't as accurate in 2011 as he was the previous season, and he missed a 32-yard field goal that likely would have sent the AFC title game to overtime. He is strong on kickoffs, but he needs to recapture his best form on field goals. P Sam Koch is one of the AFC's better players at his position. KR David Reed has very good speed but lost his job a season ago because of fumbles. Lardarius Webb is a skilled punt returner but even more valuable on defense. Rookie Asa Jackson could get a look on returns. The Ravens' coverage units were surprisingly weak a season ago, and special-teams coverage aces Corey Graham and Sean Considine were added to bolster that area.

SUMMARY

Like clockwork, the Ravens have powered their way through the regular season and into the postseason in each of the past four seasons. Can they do it again? Anything close to their best form figures to place them in range of yet another playoff berth. On paper, this doesn't look to be quite as deep a Ravens club as we have seen in past seasons, but few franchises promote talented players from within like Baltimore. The Ravens will need their youngsters to step up — and their old lions to keep scrapping and roaring — to earn the franchise's long-awaited second-ever trip to the Super Bowl.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
35	Allen, Anthony	RB	6-0	230	2	Georgia Tech	5/0
51	Ayanbadejo, Brendon	LB	6-1	225	10	UCLA	16/0
63	Barbieri, Howard	OG	6-5	300	1	Rutgers	0/0
28	Berry, Damien	RB	5-10	211	1	Miami (Fla.)	0/0
77	Birk, Matt	C	6-4	310	15	Harvard	16/16
81	Boldin, Anquan	WR	6-1	223	10	Florida State	14/14
67	Boren, Justin	OG-C	6-2	325	1	Ohio State	0/0
10	Bradley, Rodney	WR	5-11	191	1	Hawaii	0/0
23	Brown, Chykie	CB	5-11	190	2	Texas	7/0
49	Bynes, Josh	LB	6-1	240	1	Auburn	1/0
62	Cody, Terrence	NT	6-4	349	3	Alabama	16/16
37	Considine, Sean	S	6-0	212	8	Iowa	12/0
26	Cook, Emanuel	S	5-10	202	3	South Carolina	13/0
46	Cox, Morgan	LS	6-4	241	3	Tennessee	16/0
7	Cundiff, Billy	PK	6-1	212	8	Drake	15/0
84	Dickson, Ed	TE	6-4	255	3	Oregon	16/16
17	Doss, Tandon	WR	6-2	205	2	Indiana	6/0
80	Drew, Davon	TE	6-4	260	1	East Carolina	0/0
59	Ellerbe, Dannell	LB	6-1	240	4	Georgia	9/3
5	Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	245	5	Delaware	16/16
54	Glenn, Cody	LB	6-0	240	3	Nebraska	0/0
36	Gorrer, Danny	DB	6-0	185	3	Texas A&M	11/0
66	Gradkowski, Gino	OL	6-3	300	R	Delaware	
24	Graham, Corey	CB	6-0	196	6	New Hampshire	16/0
68	Hall, Bryan	DT	6-0	295	1	Arkansas State	0/0
70	Harewood, Ramon	OT	6-6	340	3	Morehouse	0/0
25	Jackson, Asa "Ace"	CB	5-10	191	R	Cal-Poly	
97	Jones, Arthur	DT	6-3	313	3	Syracuse	14/1
96	Kemoeatu, Ma'ake	DT	6-5	345	10	Utah	0/0
94	Kindle, Sergio	OLB	6-3	250	2	Texas	2/0
4	Koch, Sam	P	6-1	220	7	Nebraska	16/0
99	Kruger, Paul	LB-DE	6-4	265	4	Utah	16/0
44	Leach, Vonta	FB	6-0	260	9	East Carolina	16/16
52	Lewis, Ray	ILB	6-1	250	17	Miami (Fla.)	12/12
18	Livas, Philip	WR-RS	5-8	175	1	Louisiana Tech	0/0
58	McAdoo, Michael	DE	6-7	245	2	North Carolina	0/0
	McBean, Ryan	DL	6-5	305	4	Oklahoma State	16/3
53	McClain, Jameel	LB	6-1	245	5	Syracuse	16/16
50	McClellan, Albert	DE	6-2	255	2	Marshall	16/1
78	McKinnie, Bryant	OT	6-8	360	11	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
90	McPhee, Pernell	DE	6-3	280	2	Mississippi State	16/0
60	Newton, Cecil	C	6-2	315	1	Tennessee State	0/0
92	Ngata, Haloti	DT	6-4	330	7	Oregon	16/16
74	Oher, Michael	T	6-4	315	4	Mississippi	16/16
72	Osemele, Kelechi	OL	6-5	333	R	Iowa State	
8	Painter, Curtis	QB	6-4	230	4	Purdue	9/8
30	Pierce, Bernard	RB	6-0	218	R	Temple	
88	Pitta, Dennis	TE	6-4	245	3	Brigham Young	16/2
31	Pollard, Bernard	S	6-1	224	7	Purdue	16/13
16	Reed, David	WR-RS	6-0	190	3	Utah	11/0
20	Reed, Ed	S	5-11	200	11	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
76	Reid, Jah	OT	6-7	335	2	UCF	16/0
27	Rice, Ray	RB	5-8	212	5	Rutgers	16/16
22	Smith, Jimmy	CB	6-2	210	2	Colorado	12/3
82	Smith, Torrey	WR	6-0	205	2	Maryland	16/14
11	Streeter, Tommy	WR	6-5	219	R	Miami (Fla.)	
55	Suggs, Terrell	OLB	6-3	260	10	Arizona State	16/16
2	Taylor, Tyrod	QB	6-1	215	2	Virginia Tech	3/0
33	Thompson, Christian	S	6-0	211	R	South Carolina State	
93	Tyson, DeAngelo	DE	6-2	315	R	Georgia	
91	Upshaw, Courtney	OLB	6-2	272	R	Alabama	
21	Webb, Lardarius	CB-RS	5-10	182	4	Nicholls State	16/15
29	Williams, Cary	CB	6-1	190	4	Washburn (Mo.)	16/16
47	Williams, Chavis	LB	6-3	240	2	Alabama	5/0
15	Williams, LaQuan	WR	6-0	200	2	Maryland	12/0
14	Williams, Patrick	WR	6-1	204	1	Colorado	0/0
73	Yanda, Marshal	OG-OT	6-3	315	6	Iowa	16/16

2 PITTSBURGH Steelers

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*

2011 RECORD: 12-4 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. TOMLIN

HEAD COACH: Mike Tomlin
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Haley
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dick LeBeau
OWNER: Daniel M. Rooney
STADIUM: Heinz Field | **CAPACITY:** 65,050
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.steelers.com

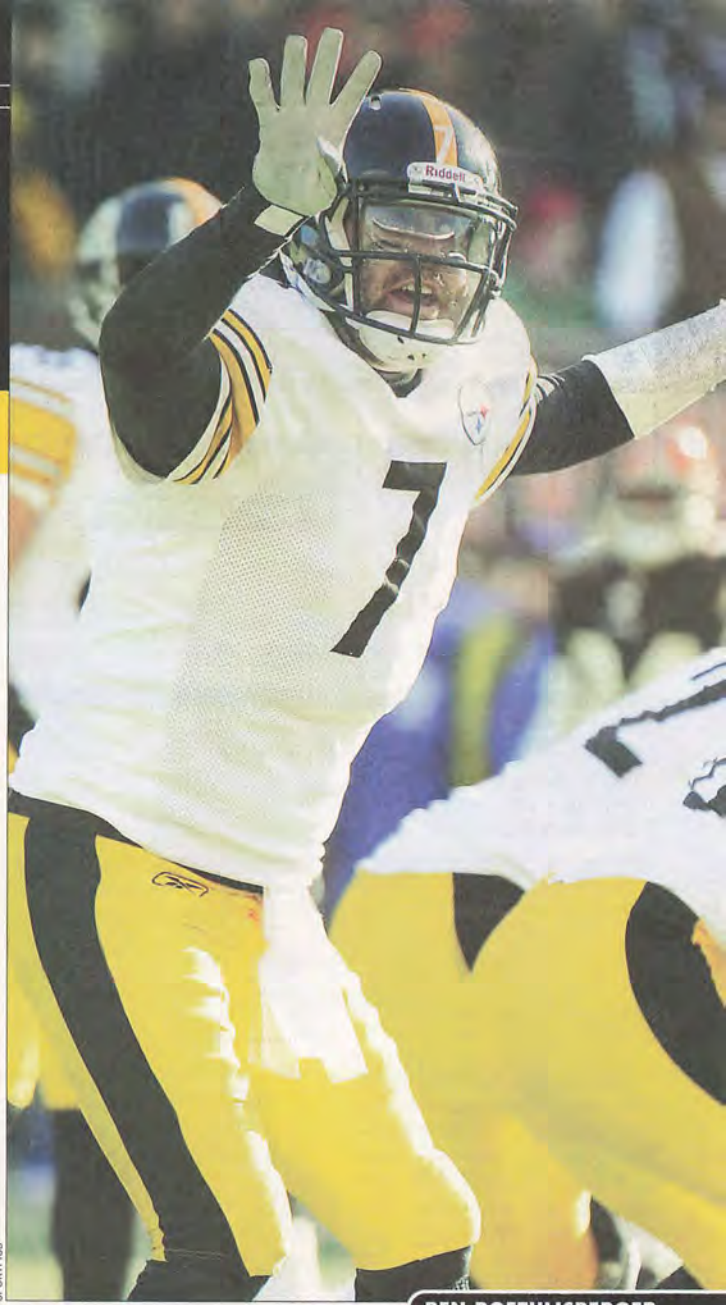
The 2011 Steelers looked their most vulnerable at the beginning and end of the season. In between, though, this remained one of the bullies on the block in the AFC, a club capable of winning in a variety of ways. The offense, led by QB Ben Roethlisberger and an excellent receiving corps, had its moments, and the defense was again one of the NFL's best.

In some ways, the Steelers are one of the easier teams in the league to figure entering this season. If they play to their past form, they will be right there in the AFC North race and can compete with any team in the league.

However, some surely will jump off the Pittsburgh bandwagon this season. The defense could have as many as seven starters who will be 31 or older as of Week One. Also, RB Rashard Mendenhall and NT Casey Hampton are coming off surgeries to repair torn ACLs.

There's also the matter of the Steelers having lost twice to the division-rival Ravens a year ago. They were blown out in Baltimore in the season opener, then could not get the necessary stops to beat the Ravens in the rematch in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers' season finished with a surprising overtime loss at Denver in the wild-card round. The Steelers dared QB Tim Tebow to throw, and he made them pay. It was an uncharacteristic performance by a very good and sometimes great defense. The question entering 2012 isn't whether the Steelers are better than that — they are — but whether they can consistently be top-caliber.


SPORTPICS

BEN ROETHLISBERGER

OFFENSE

Todd Haley replaces Bruce Arians as offensive coordinator after the Steelers' talented but inconsistent attack finished 21st in points in 2011. Arians' offenses were often criticized for an overreliance on the pass and a tendency to get too cute at times, and all eyes are on how Haley will change the scheme. His relationship with QB Ben Roethlisberger, who got along well with Arians, also bears watching.

▶ QUARTERBACKS

There isn't another quarterback like Ben Roethlisberger. His ability to create something out of nothing is his calling card. When the pocket collapses, Roethlisberger can roll out away from pressure and deliver a strong, accurate pass on the move, or he can stand and deliver in the face of the rush. When Roethlisberger is on top of his game, this offense can be special, for it can stress defenses like few others. He can extend plays as long as any quarterback in the game. The primary downside to Roethlisberger's style of play is wear and tear. He was sacked 40 times in 2011, and a high ankle sprain suffered on one of those sacks in December — as he scrambled in his customary fashion — bothered him for the rest of the season. Roethlisberger has played through all sorts of nagging injuries over the years but has missed at least one game because of injury in all but one of his seasons as starter. Byron Leftwich and

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
TE Leonard Pope.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
ILB James Farrior, CB William Gay, OG Chris Kemoeatu, OT Jamon Meredith, DE Aaron Smith, WR Hines Ward.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Ben Roethlisberger

DEFENSIVE MVP
SS Troy Polamalu

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
RB Isaac Redman

POSITION BATTLE
LCB: Open competition

B. ROETHLISBERGER

T. POLAMALU

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
A	C+	A-	C	C	A	B+	C+

Charlie Batch figure to back up Roethlisberger. Both have durability concerns but know how to play and can be effective for a short period.

RUNNING BACKS

Rashard Mendenhall's availability for the start of the season is in question after he suffered a torn ACL in the regular-season finale. When healthy, Mendenhall looks the part, possesses some big-play ability and can handle a heavy workload. However, he's not particularly elusive and does not possess special vision. He needs room to roll. Isaac Redman will start if Mendenhall is out. Redman has good size and strength and can grind out some tough yards after contact. Though not especially fast, he has some wiggle to his game, and he catches the ball well. He's an able replacement for Mendenhall. Third-year pro Jonathan Dwyer showed some promise in extended playing time in place of the injured Mendenhall early last season. He's a stout, physical back with a little bit of speed. Rookie RB Chris Rainey has rare speed and could be an effective change-of-pace option if he matures. Second-year pros Baron Batch, John Clay and Chad Spann also will compete for reserve roles. Batch, who missed 2011 after suffering an ACL tear, was having a solid preseason before his injury. He catches the ball well. Clay is a big, downhill runner, and Spann will try to stick as a change-of-pace back. Physical, lumbering TE David Johnson is the blocking back.

RECEIVERS

WR Mike Wallace is one of the keys to the Steelers' attack. Like Ben Roethlisberger's creativity, Wallace's rare speed vexes defenses. Wallace's ability to get deep makes him the most feared of the team's receivers. He gets plenty of respect from opposing cornerbacks, which allows him to get some fairly uncontested catches on underneath routes. His all-around game has improved but is still a work in progress. Antonio Brown is a quick, agile, technically sound receiver who is no easy cover in his own right. He runs precise routes and can be electric after the catch. His emergence makes the passing game all the more potent. If WR Emmanuel Sanders can stay healthy, he could be an above-average complementary option in this offense. Foot problems are a concern for Sanders, who has good quickness. WR Jerricho Cotchery is an ideal third or fourth option and showed playmaking ability in a complementary role a season ago. Rookie Toney Clemons has the speed to be a vertical threat. TE Heath Miller is a solid all-around performer, a good blocker and underneath target for Roethlisberger. The depth beyond him is a concern. David Johnson is primarily a blocker, and athletic Weslye Saunders reportedly will miss the first four games of the NFL season because of suspension. Former Chiefs TE Leonard Pope will vie for a reserve role. Pope has 49 career starts and set career highs in catches (24) and yards (247) in 2011. Rookie David Paulson, a finesse pass catcher, is also in the mix.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Denver	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 16	NY Jets	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Oakland	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 30	BYE	
Oct. 7	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Tennessee	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Cincinnati	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 28	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	at NY Giants	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 12	Kansas City	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baltimore	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Baltimore	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 9	San Diego	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Dallas	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 23	Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Cleveland	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Pittsburgh

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Baltimore	(+1.5)	7-35
Sept. 18	Seattle	(-14)	24-0
Sept. 25	At Indianapolis	(-11)	23-20
Oct. 2	At Houston	(+4)	10-17
Oct. 9	Tennessee	(-3.5)	38-17
Oct. 16	Jacksonville	(-12.5)	17-13
Oct. 23	At Arizona	(-4)	32-20
Oct. 30	New England	(+3)	25-17
Nov. 6	Baltimore	(-3.5)	20-23
Nov. 13	At Cincinnati	(-4)	24-17
Nov. 20	BYE		
Nov. 27	At Kansas City	(-10.5)	13-9
Dec. 4	Cincinnati	(-7)	35-7
Dec. 8	Cleveland	(-14)	14-3
Dec. 19	At San Francisco	(+3)	3-20
Dec. 24	St. Louis	(-10)	27-0
Jan. 1	At Cleveland	(-7)	13-9
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 8	At Denver	(-7.5)	23-29*

* Overtime

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

C Maurkice Pouncey has an excellent combination of size, strength and athleticism. He can block big nose tackles, and he can get to the second level quickly. The only concern with Pouncey is durability, as high ankle sprains have cost him playoff games in each of his first two NFL seasons. Rookie OG David DeCastro could become a player of Pouncey's caliber and have a similarly major impact on this offensive line. DeCastro is extremely tough, nasty and hardworking. He's a logical choice to be one of the Week One starters at guard, perhaps on the right side, where he starred at Stanford. Given that he pulls exceptionally well, and considering that the Steelers have their left guard frequently on the move, DeCastro would be a strong fit on that side, too. Ramon Foster, the 2011 starter at right guard, has good size and gives good effort but has had problems in pass protection; he allowed four sacks a season ago, per STATS LLC. OLG Doug Legursky, who moves well but is undersized, is also the top backup at center. Second-year pro Marcus Gilbert is likely to play left tackle. He has very good size for the position, and he has long arms. Moreover, he has good feet. However, he must become stronger. ORT Willie Colon has played one game in the past two seasons because of injuries. At his best pre-injury form, he was an above-average starter, but his durability is a big-time concern. Rookie OT Mike Adams has a world of talent, but his work habits and passion for the game are question marks. Jonathan Scott is a serviceable fill-in starter at left tackle in this scheme, and OT Chris Scott (no relation) also can play inside, as can rookie Kelvin Beachum.

DEFENSE

The Steelers boasted the league's stingiest stop unit in yards allowed, points allowed and first downs permitted. Dick LeBeau's scheme is designed to force the quarterback to get rid of the ball quickly. While the Steelers are capable of generating rush pressure from all different angles, including the blitz, this is a sound defense that rarely beats itself. Moreover, it is annually tough vs. the run (eighth in 2011).

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DRE Brett Keisel is strong and athletic, the best of the Steelers' defensive linemen and the most experienced end now that Aaron Smith has retired. Ziggy Hood and Cameron Heyward are the top

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	@BALT.	SEA.	@IND.	@HOU.	TEN.	JAX.	@ARIZ.	N.E.	BALT.	@CIN.	@K.C.	CIN.	CLEV.	@S.F.	ST.L.	@CLEV.	
Score	7-35	24-0	23-20	10-17	38-17	17-13	32-20	25-17	20-23	24-17	13-9	35-7	14-3	3-20	27-0	13-9	
Total net yards	312	421	408	296	431	370	445	427	392	328	290	295	416	389	377	360	5957
Rushing yards	66	124	67	118	174	185	91	98	70	105	108	136	147	84	169	161	1903
Passing yards	246	297	341	178	257	185	354	329	322	223	182	159	269	305	208	199	4054
Rushing plays	16	35	28	22	28	32	28	23	20	30	28	33	28	19	28	36	434
Sacks allowed	4	2	3	5	1	3	2	5	1	5	1	3	2	3	0	2	42
Had intercepted	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	15
Fumbles lost	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	13
Yards penalized	53	48	38	45	51	65	69	50	69	31	50	29	97	72	50	37	854
Punts	4	3	3	4	2	6	3	1	3	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	60

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	32:31	21:16	26:02	31:43	27:38	28:47	24:13	20:38	33:59	26:07	26:30	27:16	32:18	28:34	30:45	20:49	27:27
Total net yards	385	164	241	318	306	209	330	213	356	279	252	232	304	287	232	240	4348
Rushing yards	170	31	97	180	66	133	73	43	67	109	90	104	98	100	164	72	1597
Passing yards	215	133	144	138	240	76	257	170	289	170	162	128	206	187	68	168	2751
Rushing plays	31	13	21	35	18	30	19	12	27	26	34	22	30	30	36	15	399
Sacks allowed	1	5	1	0	3	5	2	3	3	0	1	3	3	0	3	2	35
Had intercepted	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	1	2	0	0	1	11
Fumbles lost	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Yards penalized	75	66	21	64	70	22	74	37	20	35	20	109	54	49	21	40	777
Punts	5	8	7	5	4	7	4	4	2	6	3	7	6	6	7	6	87

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Clay															1-10-1	9-31-0	10-41-1
Dwyer					11-107-0	2-8-0						3-8-0					16-123-0
Mendenhall	12-45-0	19-66-1	18-37-0	9-25-1		23-146-1	13-32-0	13-70-0	13-52-1	16-44-2	17-57-0	16-60-2	18-76-0	15-64-0	18-116-1	8-38-0	228-928-9
Moore			2-9-0	4-34-0			6-26-0	1-16-0		2-7-0	2-16-0	1-13-0	3-15-0	1-21-0			22-157-0
Redman	3-12-0	10-49-1	3-6-0	6-40-0	15-49-0	4-22-0	6-29-0	7-11-0	3-2-0	7-25-0	3-22-0	8-51-0	6-35-0	2-(-1)-0	8-35-1	19-92-1	110-479-3
Roethlisberger	1-9-0	5-8-0	5-15-0	2-11-0		3-9-0	2-(-2)-0	2-1-0	3-13-0	3-(-2)-0	4-8-0			1-0-0			31-70-0

PASSING **

Batch													0-2-0		15-22-1		15-24-1
													0-0		208-0		208-0
Roethlisberger	22-41-3	22-30-0	25-37-1	16-30-1	24-34-1	12-23-0	26-39-0	36-50-1	20-37-1	21-33-1	21-31-1	15-23-0	16-21-1	25-44-3		23-40-0	324-513-14
	280-1	298-1	364-1	206-0	228-5	200-1	361-3	365-2	330-1	245-1	193-1	176-2	280-2	330-0		221-0	4077-21

RECEIVING

A. Brown	2-14-0	4-67-0	4-75-0	5-67-0	2-23-0	1-16-0	7-102-0	9-67-1	5-109-0	5-86-0	4-81-0	2-67-0	5-151-1	5-59-0	3-34-0	6-90-0	69-1108-2
Cotchery								1-10-0	3-44-0	2-29-1			2-33-1	5-93-0		3-28-0	16-237-2
Johnson			1-3-0	1-6-0	2-5-1			1-7-0	1-25-0	1-6-0		1-9-0	2-22-0		1-2-0	1-6-0	12-91-1
Mendenhall		2-12-0	3-9-0				1-5-0	3-22-0	1-3-0	1-26-0	2-10-0			3-25-0	1-35-0	1-7-0	18-154-0
Miller	3-42-0	1-16-0	5-71-0	3-15-0	3-46-1	4-27-0	4-59-1	7-85-0	5-73-0	3-31-0	1-20-0	2-12-0	2-11-0	5-82-0	1-18-0	2-23-0	51-631-2
Moore	2-30-0	1-9-0	1-22-0					2-29-1			3-9-0			2-5-0			11-104-1
Redman		1-6-0		1-12-0	3-12-0	1-2-0	3-10-0	1-5-0	1-8-0	1-(-8)-0	2-8-0				1-5-0	3-18-0	18-78-0
Sanders	2-20-1	2-44-0	2-21-0	1-10-0		1-32-0	5-46-1	5-70-0			2-25-0	1-6-0				1-14-0	22-288-2
Wallace	8-107-0	8-126-1	5-144-1	4-77-0	6-82-1	2-76-1	3-118-1	7-70-0	4-68-1	6-54-0	2-17-0	3-38-2	4-57-0	5-66-0	4-82-0	1-11-0	72-1193-8
Ward	5-67-0	4-33-0	3-17-0	1-19-0	7-54-2	3-47-0	3-21-0			1-10-0	4-21-0	5-30-0	1-6-0		4-32-0	5-24-0	46-381-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	David DeCastro	OG	Stanford	24
2	Mike Adams	ORT	Ohio State	56
3	Sean Spence	ILB	Miami (Fla.)	86
4	Alameda Ta'amu	NT	Washington	109
5	Chris Rainey	RB	Florida	159
7	Toney Clemons	WR	Colorado	231
7	David Paulson	TE	Oregon	240
7	Terrence Frederick	CB	Texas A&M	246
7	Kelvin Beachum	OG	SMU	248

D. DeCASTRO

options at the other DE spot. Both are talented, but Hood is best as a pass rusher, and Heyward is entering only his second NFL season. Heyward's combination of size, strength and length is intriguing. The Steelers really need one of the younger ends to take his game up a level. When healthy, Casey Hampton figures to remain the top option at nose tackle, but he is coming off an ACL injury. Hampton is a big, stout run stuffer who's tough to move out of the middle. Steve McLendon is another option at nose tackle. He gives good effort, occupies blockers and showed some potential in the middle last season. McLendon, who also can play end, is not much of a pass-rush threat. Massive rookie Alameda Ta'amu will also contend for playing time in the middle. He can collapse the pocket, but conditioning will be a key for him. DE Corbin Bryant adds depth.

▶ LINEBACKERS

LOLB LaMarr Woodley (hamstring) and ROLB James Harrison (broken orbital bone, suspension) both missed significant stretches a season ago but produced when in the lineup, combining for 18 sacks (nine apiece) in just 21 regular-season games. Woodley is big, strong and explosive — one of the difference makers on defense. Harrison, who will be 34 years old this season, uses leverage to his advantage and relentlessly powers toward the quarterback. His physicality helps set the tone for the defense. Both Harrison and Woodley can get sacks in bunches against all ranges of competition, and both are solid vs. the run, too. RILB Lawrence Timmons, who had to play some outside linebacker a season ago because of injuries, is best inside. He is stoutly built and athletic. He is capable in coverage, too. He was more productive in 2010 than he was a season ago. Larry Foote takes over for the departed James Farrior at the "Buck" linebacker spot. Foote is tough, experienced and instinctive, and he has some short-area quickness. Reserve OLB Jason Worilds has improved his all-around game and has some pass-rush ability but isn't a playmaker in the class of the starters, though he has upside to develop. Second-year pro Chris Carter is another option at outside linebacker. He's athletic and could improve with experience but did not see much playing time as a rookie. Third-round pick Sean Spence will be groomed at inside linebacker. He needs to bulk up but has athleticism and instincts. Stevenson Sylvester, a solid special-teams performer, is another option inside, as is Mortty Ivy.

▶ DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Steelers have one of the game's best safety tandems. SS Troy Polamalu remains a blue-chip performer, a player capable of affecting the game in multiple ways and someone whose skill the opposition respects. Polamalu is physical, fast and smart. Watching him correctly diagnose a play and fly in to make the tackle is a thing of beauty. He doesn't connect on all of his home-run swings, but he does more than enough. His durability has been an issue throughout his career, but he played in every game last season. FS Ryan Clark is an accomplished player in his own right — very tough, physical, instinctive and smart. He works well with Polamalu, who has the latitude to freelance. Clark is a steadying influence. RCB Ike Taylor played well in the 2011 regular season but had a game to forget in the playoff loss at Denver. Taylor is a tall, long, physical cornerback who is best when he can use those attributes to his advantage. The question with Taylor, who

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

		OFFENSE		
WR	**84 A. BROWN**	88 Sanders	11 Clemons*	
OLT	**77 GILBERT**	76 Adams*	72 J. Scott	
OLG	**64 LEGURSKY**	71 C. Scott	68 Beachum*	
C	**53 POUNCEY**	64 Legursky		
ORG	**61 DeCASTRO***	73 Foster	71 C. Scott	
ORT	**74 COLON**	76 Adams*	72 J. Scott	
TE	**83 H. MILLER**	45 Pope	85 D. Johnson	
WR	**17 WALLACE**	89 Cotchery	15 D. Williams	
QB	**7 ROETHLISBERGER**	4 Leftwich	16 C. Batch	
RB	**34 MENDENHALL**	33 Redman	27 Dwyer	
FB	**85 D. JOHNSON**			
		DEFENSE		
DLE	**96 HOOD**	97 Heyward	91 Bryant	
NT	**98 HAMPTON**	90 McLendon	95 Ta'amu*	
DRE	**99 KEISEL**	97 Heyward	91 Bryant	
LOLB	**56 WOODLEY**	93 Worilds	54 C. Carter	
LILB	**50 FOOTE**	55 Sylvester		
RILB	**94 TIMMONS**	51 Spence*	57 Ivy	
ROLB	**92 HARRISON**	93 Worilds	54 C. Carter	
LCB	**23 LEWIS**	28 C. Allen	31 C. Brown	
RCB	**24 TAYLOR**	28 C. Allen	37 Frederick*	
SS	**43 POLAMALU**	26 W. Allen	42 Cromartie-Smith	
FS	**25 CLARK**	29 Mundy		
		SPECIALISTS		
P	**13 KAPINOS**	3 Butler*		
PK	**6 SUISHAM**			
H	**13 KAPINOS**			
PR	**84 A. BROWN**	22 Rainey*	88 Sanders	
KR	**84 A. BROWN**	22 Rainey*	88 Sanders	
LS	**60 WARREN**	72 J. Scott		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Keith Butler, linebackers; James Daniel, tight ends; Al Everest, special teams; Randy Fichtner, quarterbacks; Garrett Giemont, conditioning coordinator; Todd Haley, offensive coordinator; Amos Jones, asst. special teams; Sean Kugler, offensive line; Carnell Lake, defensive backs; Dick LeBeau, defensive coordinator; John Mitchell, asst. head coach/defensive line; Scottie Montgomery, wide receivers; Jerry Olsavsky, defensive assistant; Mike Tomlin, head coach; Kirby Wilson, running backs.

will be 32 years old this season, is his speed. He struggled in that regard in the Denver loss. However, he's a proven player. There is far more uncertainty at the other CB spot, with second-year pro Cortez Allen and fourth-year pro Keenan Lewis perhaps having the best shots at the job. Second-year pro Curtis Brown also could be in the mix, though he's more likely to be the nickel cornerback. Allen has an intriguing combination of size and speed. Lewis has good size, and he showed improvement last season. Brown is athletic and has good length. Rookie CB Terrence Frederick will try to win a backup role. Ryan Mundy and Will Allen are the top reserve safeties.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Antonio Brown earned Pro Bowl honors as a returner in 2011, averaging 27.3 yards on kickoffs and 10.8 yards on punts. The attributes that make him so skilled after the catch as a receiver are also apparent on returns. Rookie Chris Rainey, who has excellent speed, could also get a look on returns. PK Shaun Suisham averaged a career-best 66.5 yards on kickoffs a season ago but connected on just 23-of-31 field-goal attempts. Heinz Field is a notoriously tough place for placekickers to work, with the stadium's winds and field conditions making longer field goals a real challenge. Jeremy Kapinos (38.3-yard net average in eight games last season) will compete with undrafted free agent Drew Butler to replace Daniel Sepulveda at punter.

SUMMARY

The 2012 Steelers could be many things. In the best-case scenario, they could be Super Bowl contenders, a testament to the organization's almost second-to-none talent acquisition in this era. In the worst case, the window could slam shut on a team that still has some core players from the Super Bowl-winning squad of 2005. The feeling here is Pittsburgh still will be formidable, a real threat to win the AFC North and a legitimate conference-title threat if it reaches the postseason. But can this team, with more than a few players on the back end of their careers, hold up through another long season?

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
76	Adams, Mike	OT	6-7	323	R	Ohio State	
28	Allen, Cortez	CB	6-1	196	2	The Citadel	15/0
26	Allen, Will	S	6-1	200	9	Ohio State	16/0
20	Batch, Baron	RB	5-10	210	2	Texas Tech	0/0
16	Batch, Charlie	QB	6-2	216	15	Eastern Michigan	4/1
68	Beachum, Kelvin	OT	6-3	306	R	SMU	
19	Beiler, Tyler	WR	6-0	190	1	Bridgewater (Va.)	0/0
66	Blanc, Mike	DL	6-4	297	1	Auburn	0/0
84	Brown, Antonio	WR	5-10	186	3	Central Michigan	16/3
31	Brown, Curtis	CB	6-0	185	2	Texas	12/0
91	Bryant, Corbin	DE	6-4	300	1	Northwestern	1/0
3	Butler, Drew	P	6-1	204	R	Georgia	
54	Carter, Chris	LB	6-1	248	2	Fresno State	8/0
35	Carter, Terry	CB	5-10	184	R	Lousiana Tech	
25	Clark, Ryan	FS	5-11	205	11	LSU	16/16
38	Clay, John	RB	6-1	248	1	Wisconsin	2/0
11	Clemons, Toney	WR	6-2	210	R	Colorado	
74	Colon, Willie	OT	6-3	315	7	Hofstra	1/1
89	Cotchery, Jerricho	WR	6-1	200	9	North Carolina State	13/0
42	Cromartie-Smith, Damon	S	6-2	210	1	Texas-El Paso	4/0
61	DeCastro, David	OG	6-5	310	R	Stanford	
5	Dixon, Connor	WR	6-5	222	R	Duquesne	
27	Dwyer, Jonathan	RB	5-11	229	3	Georgia Tech	7/0
79	Essex, Trai	OG	6-5	324	8	Northwestern	16/3
50	Foote, Larry	LB	6-1	239	11	Michigan	15/5
73	Foster, Ramon	OG	6-6	325	4	Tennessee	15/14
37	Frederick, Terrence	CB	5-10	187	R	Texas A&M	
77	Gilbert, Marcus	OT	6-6	330	2	Florida	14/13
18	Gilreath, David	WR	5-11	169	1	Wisconsin	0/0
30	Golden, Robert	S	5-11	202	R	Arizona	
98	Hampton, Casey	NT	6-1	325	12	Texas	13/12
92	Harrison, James	OLB	6-0	242	9	Kent State	11/11
97	Heyward, Cameron	DE	6-5	288	2	Ohio State	16/0
44	Hicks, Brandon	LB	6-2	232	1	Florida	0/0
96	Hood, Ziggy	DE	6-3	300	4	Missouri	16/14
69	Igbinosun, Ikponmwosa	DE	6-4	288	R	S. Connecticut State	
57	Ivy, Mortty	LB	6-1	239	2	West Virginia	6/0
85	Johnson, David	TE	6-2	260	4	Arkansas State	16/16
8	Johnson, Jerrod	QB	6-5	251	1	Texas A&M	0/0
46	Johnson, Will	FB	6-2	240	1	West Virginia	0/0
13	Kapinos, Jeremy	P	6-1	233	5	Penn State	8/0
99	Keisel, Brett	DE	6-5	285	11	Brigham Young	14/14
69	Lee, Ryan	C-OG	6-3	308	R	Furman	
4	Leftwich, Byron	QB	6-5	250	10	Marshall	0/0
64	Legursky, Doug	OG	6-1	315	4	Marshall	10/10
23	Lewis, Keenan	CB	6-0	208	4	Oregon State	16/1
49	Lindsey, Brandon	LB	6-2	254	R	Pittsburgh	
81	Lyons, Wes	TE	6-9	250	1	West Virginia	0/0
62	Malecki, John	OG	6-2	298	1	Pittsburgh	0/0
3	Maze, Marquis	WR	5-8	186	R	Alabama	
80	McCoy, Jamie	TE	6-2	240	1	Texas A&M	0/0
40	McFadden, Marshall	LB	6-2	235	1	South Carolina State	0/0
39	McFadden, Walter	CB	5-10	180	2	Auburn	0/0
90	McLendon, Steve	DT	6-4	280	3	Troy	14/1
34	Mendenhall, Rashard	RB	5-10	225	5	Illinois	15/15
83	Miller, Heath	TE	6-5	256	8	Virginia	16/16
29	Mundy, Ryan	FS	6-1	209	4	West Virginia	16/0
48	Paulson, David	TE	6-4	241	R	Oregon	
43	Polamalu, Troy	SS	5-10	207	10	USC	16/16
45	Pope, Leonard	TE	6-8	264	7	Georgia	16/10
53	Pouncey, Maurkice	C-OG	6-4	304	3	Florida	14/14
22	Rainey, Chris	RB	5-9	175	R	Florida	
33	Redman, Isaac	RB	6-0	230	3	Bowie State	16/1
2	Ressel, Grant	PK	6-1	190	R	Missouri	
46	Robinson, Adrian	LB	6-1	250	R	Temple	
7	Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	241	9	Miami (Ohio)	15/15
47	Rolle, Myron	CB	6-2	219	1	Florida State	0/0
88	Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	5-11	180	3	SMU	11/0
82	Saunders, Weslye	TE	6-5	270	2	South Carolina	16/6
71	Scott, Chris	OT	6-4	319	2	Tennessee	2/0
72	Scott, Jonathan	OT	6-6	318	6	Texas	12/5
10	Smith, Troy	QB	6-0	217	5	Ohio State	0/0
51	Spence, Sean	LB	5-11	231	R	Miami (Fla.)	
61	Stapleton, Desmond	OT	6-5	301	R	Rutgers	
87	Stewart, Juamorris	WR	6-3	205	1	Southern	0/0
68	Stoller, Jake	DE	6-3	284	R	Yale	
6	Suisham, Shaun	PK	6-0	200	8	Bowling Green	16/0
55	Sylvester, Stevenson	ILB	6-2	231	3	Utah	15/1
95	Ta'amu, Alameda	DT	6-3	348	R	Washington	
24	Taylor, Ike	CB	6-2	195	10	Louisiana-Lafayette	16/16
94	Timmons, Lawrence	LB	6-1	234	6	Florida State	16/16
67	Turner, Trevis	OT	6-7	330	1	Abilene Christian	0/0
17	Wallace, Mike	WR	6-0	199	4	Mississippi	16/14
60	Warren, Greg	LS	6-3	252	8	North Carolina	16/0
67	Weston, Kade	DT	6-5	315	2	Georgia	0/0
15	Williams, Derrick	WR	5-11	197	3	Penn State	0/0
56	Woodley, LaMarr	OLB	6-2	265	6	Michigan	10/10
65	Woods, Al	DE	6-4	307	3	LSU	2/0
93	Worilds, Jason	OLB	6-2	262	3	Virginia Tech	12/7
14	Young, Jimmy	WR	6-1	208	1	TCU	0/0

3 CINCINNATI Bengals

2012 PREDICTION: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 9-7 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. LEWIS

HEAD COACH: Marvin Lewis
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jay Gruden
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Zimmer
OWNER: Mike Brown
STADIUM: Paul Brown Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 65,535
PLAYING SURFACE: FieldTurf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.bengals.com

As they have numerous times in Marvin Lewis' 10-season tenure as head coach, the Bengals thrived when all but written off in 2011. Shrugging off a holdout by Carson Palmer, their one-time franchise quarterback, the Bengals, sparked by a promising young passing tandem and a stout defense, made the postseason for the third time since 2005.

Now, the Bengals will try to string together back-to-back postseason berths — something the franchise has done only once in its history.

There are reasons to be bullish about Cincinnati. Second-year QB Andy Dalton and WR A.J. Green were outstanding as rookies, with Dalton showing a veteran's poise and skill and Green displaying rare playmaking ability. The defense is deep and talented. The defensive line is particularly strong. Also, the Bengals' coaching staff is a strength. Lewis annually gets his teams to play hard. Defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer is well-respected, and offensive coordinator Jay Gruden impressed in his first season in charge of the offense. Both could be head coaches one day.

However, for all of the good things the 2011 Bengals did, they did not beat a single club that made the postseason (0-7 vs. playoff teams). This included two losses apiece to Baltimore and Pittsburgh, teams that finished ahead of them in the AFC North standings and again look to be forces in 2012. If the Bengals are going to return to the postseason, they will have to show they can beat playoff-caliber clubs — and that work must start in their division.

ZUMAWIREWEST

A.J. GREEN

OFFENSE

The Bengals successfully transitioned to a West Coast scheme in Jay Gruden's first season as offensive coordinator in 2011, with a rookie quarterback (Andy Dalton) and without offseason workouts. Although a precise, controlled passing game and a healthy emphasis on the running game are primary elements of the attack, the offense also has some big-play ability. Cincinnati connected on 51 pass plays of 20 yards or longer in 2011, six more than in '10. Can this offense take another step with the benefit of a full offseason and further maturation of its young talent?

QUARTERBACKS

Andy Dalton proved to be an able replacement for Carson Palmer, helping Cincinnati to the playoffs and earning a Pro Bowl berth after starting all 16 games. He was only the fifth rookie quarterback to throw for more than 3,000 yards in a season — and the only one not selected among the top three picks in the draft. Dalton has no shortage of winning traits. He is a leader who is smart and hardworking. He takes care of the ball, with one interception for every 39.7 passes attempted as a rookie. He throws with rhythm and touch. Dalton is adept at giving his receivers a chance to make a play on the ball. With WR A.J. Green possessing rare jump-ball ability and TE Jermaine Gresham similarly skilled at snatching the ball out of the sky, a quarterback willing to make a contested but

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

CB Jason Allen, DE Jamaal Anderson, OG Jacob Bell, RB BenJarvus Green-Ellis, CB Terence Newman, OG Travelle Wharton.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

WR Andre Caldwell, S Chris Crocker, DE Jonathan Fanene, OG Nate Livings, DE Frostee Rucker.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
WR A.J. Green

DEFENSIVE MVP
DT Geno Atkins

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
TE Jermaine Gresham

POSITION BATTLE
No. 2 WR: Open competition

A.J. GREEN

G. ATKINS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	C+	B-	B-	B	C	C	C+

well-placed throw is a major asset. While Dalton does not have elite arm strength, he has enough, and this is an offense that can stretch the field. However, Dalton has room to improve. His accuracy is not a strong suit; he completed less than 60 percent of his passes in eight of his last nine starts. Moreover, he did not fare well against Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Bruce Gradkowski is Dalton's top backup. His experience is an asset, and he has flashed some playmaking ability during his career, but he has below-average accuracy.

RUNNING BACKS

Former Patriots starting RB BenJarvus Green-Ellis replaces Cedric Benson as the Bengals' starting back. Toughness and dependability are Green-Ellis' calling cards. He has never fumbled in a regular-season or postseason game, and he runs hard. He does not have much long speed, but he can get what's blocked and has the power to break some tackles, too. He wasn't a big part of the passing game in New England but does have some pass-catching ability. With 510 regular-season carries in four NFL seasons, Green-Ellis' lack of wear and tear is another positive. For years, the Bengals have had a featured runner who has received the lion's share of the work, but that could change this season. It's unlikely Green-Ellis will get as many carries as Benson, who averaged 298.3 carries the past three seasons, and a committee approach is possible. Bernard Scott, who got a career-high 112 carries a season ago but gained just 3.4 yards per attempt, figures to fill a change-of-pace role. He has the best speed of the team's backs. Brian Leonard will contribute primarily in passing situations; he has just 53 carries in three seasons in Cincinnati. He catches the ball well but lacks much speed. Cedric Peerman's special-teams ability is an asset. Rookie RB Dan "Boom" Herron has good quickness but is on the small side. FB Chris Pressley is the top blocking back.

RECEIVERS

WR A.J. Green had a special rookie season, catching 65 passes for 1,057 yards and seven TDs and earning Pro Bowl honors. Green's speed, leaping ability and body control make him a top-caliber vertical threat and red-zone target. His 11 catches of 35 yards or longer tied him for the NFL lead and were the most by a rookie since Randy Moss had 14 in 1998. Green has the talent to beat coverages designed to stop him, and he figures to draw significant attention from secondaries this season, especially with no proven starting wideout opposite him. Rookie Mohamed Sanu doesn't have great timed speed but plays fast. He has the toughness and work habits to be a great fit as an underneath receiver in this offense. Jordan Shipley, who is coming off an ACL tear, is best in the slot. His return bolsters the club's short-passing game. Andrew Hawkins and Ryan Whalen, like Shipley, are best inside. Hawkins, formerly of the Canadian Football League, showed some playmaking ability a season ago. Speedy Brandon Tate, who primarily contributed on special teams in 2011, could get more of a look at wideout this season. Fifth-round pick Marv Jones is also in the mix at wideout. At tight end, the Bengals feature a potential star in Jermaine Gresham, who made the Pro Bowl in 2011. Gresham is a prime red-zone target with excellent size and leaping ability; he is tough to stop in jump-ball situations. Moreover, he has the speed to get deep. He is a matchup problem for safeties and linebackers. Rookie TE Orson Charles is tightly wound but an aggressive blocker. Colin Cochart is primarily a blocker, and Donald Lee adds depth.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

OLT Andrew Whitworth is one of the AFC's better starters at his position, a very good pass protector and a solid run blocker, too. He has long arms and strong hands and understands how to play the position. Ex-Panther Travelle Wharton could become the starting left guard. Wharton moves relatively well for his size but is not overpowering. He also can play tackle. First-round pick Kevin Zeitler is likely to start at right guard. He's a stout run blocker but is not especially athletic. Nevertheless, he is pro-ready. C Kyle Cook has good size for the position and moves well. He did not allow a sack a season ago, according to STATS LLC. However, the Bengals struggled on middle runs in 2011. Jacob Bell and Clint Boling are among the reserve options at guard. Boling got some valuable experience as a starter early last season and could improve in his second year in the system. Bell has good athleticism and strength. Injuries and conditioning woes marked ORT Andre Smith's first two NFL seasons but he made strides in 2011. He started a career-high 14 games, allowed two sacks (according to STATS LLC) and helped the Bengals average a healthy 4.82 yards on runs off right tackle. The Bengals have a pair of solid, experienced backup tackles in Anthony Collins and Dennis Roland. OG Otis Hudson will vie for a reserve role inside.

DEFENSE

The Bengals have finished in the upper half of the NFL in yards allowed per game in each of Mike Zimmer's four seasons as defensive coordinator. They employ a 4-3 scheme. This is a physical, stout defense — one that allowed the fourth-fewest yards per play in 2011. It is also a defense loaded with first-round picks, 10 in total as of this writing. Zimmer and

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 10	at Baltimore	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Washington	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Jacksonville	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 7	Miami	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Pittsburgh	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 28	BYE	
Nov. 4	Denver	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	NY Giants	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Oakland	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at San Diego	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 9	Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 13	at Philadelphia	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Pittsburgh	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Baltimore	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Cincinnati

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Cleveland	(+7)	27-17
Sept. 18	At Denver	(+3)	22-24
Sept. 25	San Francisco	(-1.5)	8-13
Oct. 2	Buffalo	(+3)	23-20
Oct. 9	At Jacksonville	(-2.5)	30-20
Oct. 16	Indianapolis	(-4.5)	27-17
Oct. 23	BYE		
Oct. 30	At Seattle	(-1.5)	34-12
Nov. 6	At Tennessee	(+2.5)	24-17
Nov. 13	Pittsburgh	(+4)	17-24
Nov. 20	At Baltimore	(+7)	24-31
Nov. 27	Cleveland	(-6.5)	23-20
Dec. 4	At Pittsburgh	(+7)	7-35
Dec. 11	Houston	(-2.5)	19-20
Dec. 18	At St. Louis	(-7)	20-13
Dec. 24	Arizona	(-4)	23-16
Jan. 1	Baltimore	(+3)	16-24
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 7	At Houston	(+4)	10-31

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@CLEV.**	**@DEN.**	**S.F.**	**BUFF.**	**@JAX.**	**IND.**	**@SEA.**	**@TEN.**	**PITT.**	**@BALT.**	**CLEV.**	**@PITT.**	**HOU.**	**@ST.L.**	**ARIZ.**	**BALT.**	
Score	27-17	22-24	8-13	23-20	30-20	27-17	34-12	24-17	17-24	24-31	23-20	7-35	19-20	20-13	23-16	16-24	
Total net yards	294	382	228	458	239	358	252	319	279	483	389	232	285	283	301	336	5118
Rushing yards	139	72	79	171	77	94	92	109	109	119	132	104	101	110	165	105	1778
Passing yards	155	310	149	287	162	264	160	210	170	364	257	128	184	173	136	231	3340
Rushing plays	33	20	20	32	31	31	27	30	26	30	32	22	29	34	34	24	455
Sacks allowed	4	2	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	25
Had intercepted	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	0	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	14
Fumbles lost	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	8
Yards penalized	22	69	40	15	33	111	65	87	35	43	35	109	27	101	47	35	874
Punts	8	5	7	5	7	5	5	7	6	7	4	7	4	5	5	4	91
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	29:37	30:15	35:20	28:39	27:27	26:24	28:33	27:05	33:53	27:07	28:26	32:44	31:44	29:57	28:21	29:26	29:41
Total net yards	285	318	226	273	296	273	411	328	328	373	274	295	412	305	316	347	5060
Rushing yards	83	131	50	83	96	94	61	78	105	105	134	136	144	95	59	221	1675
Passing yards	202	187	176	190	200	179	350	250	223	268	140	159	268	210	257	126	3385
Rushing plays	26	36	29	21	27	23	20	20	30	28	30	33	28	24	18	32	425
Sacks allowed	2	2	5	1	3	1	4	2	5	1	2	3	5	3	5	1	45
Had intercepted	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	10
Fumbles lost	0	2	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	12
Yards penalized	72	55	70	26	15	11	80	100	31	69	15	29	50	109	87	59	878
Punts	8	6	7	8	7	4	6	7	5	8	5	5	2	7	6	7	98

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Benson	25-121-1	16-59-0	17-64-0	19-104-0	24-53-0	16-57-1		20-78-0	15-57-0	15-41-2	21-106-1	13-52-0	21-91-0	22-76-1	16-57-0	13-51-0	273-1067-6
Dalton		2-3-0	1-5-0	3-12-1		2-(-1)-0	2-3-0	3-4-0		4-32-0	6-23-0	2-6-0	1-2-0	2-(-2)-0	5-48-0	4-17-0	37-152-1
Green				1-6-0					1-7-0			1-15-0			2-25-0		5-53-0
Leonard	2-15-0			4-36-0	1-4-0	2-9-0	2-7-0	1-3-0	2-3-0	2-6-0	1-2-0						17-85-0
Scott	4-3-0	2-10-0	2-10-0	5-13-0	6-20-1	11-29-0	22-76-0	6-24-0	7-38-0	9-40-0	4-1-0	5-30-0	6-4-0	7-20-1	10-28-0	6-34-1	112-380-3

PASSING **

Dalton	10-15-0 81-1	27-41-0 332-2	17-32-2 157-0	18-36-2 298-1	21-33-1 179-2	25-32-0 264-1	18-29-2 168-2	22-39-0 217-3	15-30-2 170-2	24-45-3 373-1	21-31-0 270-1	11-24-0 135-1	16-28-0 189-1	15-26-1 179-0	18-31-0 154-2	22-44-0 232-0	300-516-13 3398-20
Gradkowski	5-12-0 92-1											3-6-1 17-0					8-18-1 109-1

RECEIVING

Benson	1-2-0	3-17-0				1-5-0			1-5-0		4-24-0		1-0-0	1-11-0	1-8-0	2-10-0	15-82-0
Caldwell		3-27-1	6-53-0	2-17-0	2-13-0	4-32-0	4-31-0	5-22-1	3-25-0	3-63-1	3-24-0		2-10-0				37-317-3
Cochart								2-7-1	1-25-0	1-6-0				1-6-0			5-44-1
Green	1-41-1	10-124-1	4-29-0	4-118-0	5-90-1	5-51-1	4-63-1	7-83-0	1-36-1		3-110-0	6-87-1	5-59-0	6-115-0	2-25-0	2-26-0	65-1057-7
Gresham	6-58-1	2-8-0	4-51-0	4-70-1	5-21-1	4-23-0			4-23-1	3-48-0	5-68-1	3-37-0	3-45-0	3-16-0	5-56-1	5-72-0	56-596-6
Hawkins				2-43-0	2-6-0	1-7-0			5-56-0	4-47-0	2-27-0	1-8-0	1-22-0	1-10-0	1-3-0	3-34-0	23-263-0
D. Lee			1-11-0			1-2-0	3-44-0	3-49-0							1-0-0	2-9-0	11-115-0
Leonard	2-29-0	2-5-0	1-7-0	1-15-0	1-10-0	2-38-0	2-10-0			5-57-0		4-20-0				2-19-0	22-210-0
Scott				2-9-0	2-(-1)-0	1-5-0	3-0-0				2-2-0		2-15-0			1-8-0	13-38-0
Simpson	4-44-0	4-136-0	1-6-0	3-26-0	4-40-0	6-101-0	1-14-1	3-43-1		8-152-0	2-15-0		2-38-1	2-14-0	5-42-1	5-54-0	50-725-4
Whalen														1-7-0	3-20-0		4-27-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Dre Kirkpatrick	CB	Alabama	17
1	Kevin Zeitler	OG	Wisconsin	27
2	Devon Still	DT	Penn State	53
3	Mohamed Sanu	WR	Rutgers	83
3	Brandon Thompson	DT	Clemson	93
4	Orson Charles	TE	Georgia	116
5	Shaun Prater	CB	Iowa	156
5	Marv Jones	WR	California	166
5	George Iloka	FS	Boise State	167
6	Dan "Boom" Herron	RB	Ohio State	191

D. KIRKPATRICK

head coach Marvin Lewis have gotten a lot of mileage out of players who came to Cincinnati hungry to prove they still can be NFL contributors.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DL depth was a strength in 2011. Case in point: Every defensive lineman active in a regular-season game played at least 12 snaps. Ideally, the Bengals will be able to keep such a rotation going. The Bengals have a very good DT tandem in Geno Atkins and Domata Peko. Atkins is a very good interior pass rusher who also showed improvement against the run in 2011, and the result was a Pro Bowl nod in only his second NFL season. Peko, a stout run stuffer, racked up 66 tackles last season. The top backup inside, Pat Sims, is also a capable player. Rookies Devon Still and Brandon Thompson will also vie for snaps inside. Still is athletic but needs to add strength. Thompson is stout vs. the run; conditioning will be key for him. Michael Johnson figures to move into the starting lineup at right defensive end after Frostee Rucker signed with Cleveland. Johnson, who notched a career-best six sacks in 2011, has long arms, excellent size and good athleticism. DLE Robert Geathers is stout but does not provide much pass-rush push. Carlos Dunlap, who could be second on the depth chart at left end, will play frequently. Quick and strong, with long arms, he is the club's most promising pass rusher. Durability and run defense are the concerns with Dunlap. The DE depth could be very good if former first-round picks Derrick Harvey and Jamaal Anderson develop into contributors. They have not produced as pass rushers but have the measurables and skills to fit this scheme.

LINEBACKERS

MLB Rey Maualuga is a stout, physical and instinctive player. He has the skill set to be a disruptive run stuffer — he doesn't hesitate and he gets downhill quickly. He drops into coverage fairly well, too. Maualuga, who notched a career-best 88 tackles in 13 games in 2011, is in the prime of his career, and he has some intriguing ability, but he needs to steer clear of off-field incidents. WLB Thomas Howard played well in his first season with Cincinnati, and he'll keep the starting job in 2012 after former starter Keith Rivers was dealt to the Giants. Howard runs very well and also plays with physicality. He can take some reps in the middle, too. SLB Manny Lawson is long and athletic, a steady starter in this scheme. The depth behind the starters isn't as proven as it had been in previous years. Dan Skuta, who can play inside and outside, figures to be one of the top backups. Dontay Moch, a swift pass-rushing prospect who didn't play in 2011 because of a broken foot, is another option on the strong side. MLB Roddrick Muckelroy is coming off an Achilles injury that kept him out of action in 2011.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

This position group could be the key to the defense. No. 1 CB Leon Hall returns from an Achilles tendon injury suffered on Nov. 13. If he's healthy and in top form, the Bengals will have one of the division's top players at his position and fewer concerns about their coverage. Hall is quick and instinctive and plays the ball well, though he doesn't have great top-end speed. CB Nate Clements has good size for the position and still gets the job done at the age of 32. Rookie Dre Kirkpatrick could contend for immedate playing time at corner. He has good length and quickness but lacks long speed. He needs to be a quick study with so many veterans vying for playing time.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	**11 SHIPLEY**	12 Sanu*	82 M. Jones*
OLT	**77 WHITWORTH**	73 Collins	74 Roland
OLG	**70 WHARTON**	60 Hudson	
C	**64 COOK**	65 Boling	
ORG	**68 ZEITLER***	65 Boling	62 Bell
ORT	**71 SMITH**	73 Collins	
TE	**84 GRESHAM**	80 Charles*	81 Cochart
WR	**18 GREEN**	16 Hawkins	19 Tate
QB	**14 DALTON**	7 Gradkowski	
RB	**42 GREEN-ELLIS**	28 Scott	40 Leonard
FB	**36 PRESSLEY**		
DEFENSE			
DLE	**91 GEATHERS**	96 Dunlap	95 Harvey
NT	**94 PEKO**	90 Sims	79 Thompson*
DT	**97 ATKINS**	75 Still*	98 Hayden
DRE	**93 MICH. JOHNSON**	92 Anderson	95 Harvey
SLB	**99 LAWSON**	51 Skuta	52 Moch
MLB	**58 MAUALUGA**	56 Muckelroy	51 Skuta
WLB	**53 HOWARD**	57 Rey	
LCB	**22 CLEMENTS**	27 Kirkpatrick*	24 A. Jones
RCB	**29 HALL**	25 Allen	23 Newman
SS	**26 MAYS**	45 Miles	31 Sands
FS	**20 NELSON**	43 Iloka*	31 Sands
SPECIALISTS			
P	**10 HUBER**		
PK	**2 NUGENT**		
H	**10 HUBER**		
PR	**19 TATE**	24 A. Jones	
KR	**19 TATE**	28 Scott	
LS	**46 HARRIS**		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Paul Alexander, asst. head coach/offensive line; Jim Anderson, running backs; Mark Carrier, defensive backs; Kyle Caskey, asst. offensive line/offensive quality control; Jeff Friday, asst. strength and conditioning; Jay Gruden, offensive coordinator; Paul Guenther, linebackers; Jay Hayes, defensive line; Jonathan Hayes, tight ends; Hue Jackson, asst. special teams/asst. defensive backs; Marvin Lewis, head coach; David Lippincott, defensive quality control/asst. linebackers; Chip Morton, strength and conditioning; Darrin Simmons, special teams; James Urban, wide receivers; Ken Zampese, quarterbacks; Mike Zimmer, defensive coordinator.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
25	Allen, Jason	CB	6-1	200	6	Tennessee	16/4
92	Anderson, Jamaal	DE	6-6	289	6	Arkansas	15/1
97	Atkins, Geno	DT	6-1	300	3	Georgia	16/15
62	Bell, Jacob	OG	6-5	304	9	Miami (Ohio)	12/12
85	Binns, Armon	WR	6-3	210	1	Cincinnati	0/0
61	Bojicic, Ben	C	6-4	300	R	Bowling Green	
65	Boling, Clint	OG	6-5	311	2	Georgia	5/3
32	Brooks, Derrius	CB	5-10	192	R	Western Kentucky	
33	Brown, Aaron	RB	6-1	205	3	TCU	1/0
55	Burfict, Vontaze	LB	6-1	248	R	Arizona State	
80	Charles, Orson	TE	6-3	250	R	Georgia	
22	Clements, Nate	CB	6-0	200	12	Ohio State	15/15
81	Cochart, Colin	TE	6-4	254	2	South Dakota State	10/3
73	Collins, Anthony	OT	6-5	315	5	Kansas	7/2
64	Cook, Kyle	C	6-3	316	5	Michigan State	16/16
14	Dalton, Andy	QB	6-2	220	2	TCU	16/16
48	Davis, Bryce	LS	6-3	250	R	Central Oklahoma	
35	Develin, James	FB	6-3	251	1	Brown	0/0
96	Dunlap, Carlos	DE	6-6	289	3	Florida	12/1
69	Evans, DeQuin	LB	6-2	250	1	Kentucky	0/0
91	Geathers, Robert	DE	6-3	280	9	Georgia	14/13
21	Ghee, Brandon	CB	6-0	193	3	Wake Forest	7/0
7	Gradkowski, Bruce	QB	6-1	220	7	Toledo	2/0
42	Green-Ellis, BenJarvus	RB	5-11	224	5	Mississippi	16/6
18	Green, A.J.	WR	6-4	207	2	Georgia	15/15
84	Gresham, Jermaine	TE	6-5	260	3	Oklahoma	14/13
29	Hall, Leon	CB	5-11	195	6	Michigan	9/9
9	Hansen, Tyler	QB	6-1	218	R	Colorado	
46	Harris, Clark	LS	6-5	252	4	Rutgers	16/0
95	Harvey, Derrick	DE	6-5	268	5	Florida	5/0
16	Hawkins, Andrew	WR	5-7	175	2	Toledo	13/0
98	Hayden, Nick	DT	6-4	292	3	Wisconsin	2/0
17	Hazelton, Vidal	WR	6-2	218	1	Cincinnati	0/0
34	Herron, Dan "Boom"	RB	5-10	215	R	Ohio State	
15	Hilton, Justin	WR	6-2	190	R	Indiana State	
53	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-3	240	7	Texas-El Paso	16/15
10	Huber, Kevin	P	6-1	208	4	Cincinnati	16/0
60	Hudson, Otis	OG	6-5	311	2	Eastern Illinois	0/0
47	Hunter, Grant	LB	6-2	245	R	Butler	
43	Iloka, George	S	6-4	225	R	Boise State	
50	Johnson, Micah	LB	6-2	258	1	Kentucky	0/0
93	Johnson, Michael	DE	6-7	267	4	Georgia Tech	16/5
59	Joiner, Brandon	LB	6-3	225	R	Arkansas State	
24	Jones, Adam	CB	5-10	185	6	West Virginia	8/7
82	Jones, Marvin	WR	6-2	200	R	California	
99	Lawson, Manny	LB	6-5	240	7	North Carolina State	16/15
86	Lee, Donald	TE	6-4	248	10	Mississippi State	9/4
40	Leonard, Brian	RB	6-1	225	6	Rutgers	13/0
27	Kirkpatrick, Dre	CB	6-2	186	R	Alabama	
58	Maualuga, Rey	LB	6-2	260	4	USC	13/13
26	Mays, Taylor	S	6-3	230	3	USC	10/0
45	Miles, Jeromy	S	6-2	210	3	Massachusetts	16/0
67	Miller, Julian	DE	6-3	255	R	West Virginia	
52	Moch, Dontay	LB	6-2	241	2	Nevada	0/0
83	Moore, Kashif	WR	5-9	180	R	Connecticut	
56	Muckelroy, Roddrick	LB	6-2	245	3	Texas	0/0
20	Nelson, Reggie	S	5-11	206	6	Florida	16/16
23	Newman, Terence	CB	5-10	192	10	Kansas State	14/14
2	Nugent, Mike	PK	5-10	183	8	Ohio State	16/0
76	O'Donnell, Matthew	OT	6-9	328	1	Queen's (Canada)	0/0
30	Peerman, Cedric	RB	5-10	211	3	Virginia	15/0
94	Peko, Domata	DT	6-3	322	7	Michigan State	16/16
38	Prater, Shaun	CB	5-10	190	R	Iowa	
36	Pressley, Chris	FB	5-11	256	4	Wisconsin	15/10
57	Rey, Vincent	LB	6-2	247	2	Duke	16/0
	Robinson, Trevor	OG-C	6-5	310	R	Notre Dame	
5	Robinson, Zac	QB	6-3	218	2	Oklahoma State	0/0
89	Rogers, Taveon	WR	5-11	188	R	New Mexico State	
74	Roland, Dennis	OT	6-9	322	5	Georgia	16/3
63	Ryan, Mike	OG-OT	6-6	325	R	Connecticut	
31	Sands, Robert	S	6-4	209	2	West Virginia	1/0
12	Sanu, Mohamed	WR	6-2	210	R	Rutgers	
28	Scott, Bernard	RB	5-10	198	4	Abilene Christian	16/1
11	Shipley, Jordan	WR	6-0	188	3	Texas	2/0
90	Sims, Pat	DT	6-2	330	5	Auburn	11/1
51	Skuta, Dan	LB	6-2	248	4	Grand Valley State	16/3
71	Smith, Andre	OT	6-4	335	4	Alabama	14/14
37	Stewart, Rodney	RB	5-7	180	R	Colorado	
75	Still, Devon	DT	6-5	305	R	Penn State	
19	Tate, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	4	North Carolina	16/0
79	Thompson, Brandon	DT	6-2	315	R	Clemson	
72	Walker, Landon	OT	6-6	305	R	Clemson	
3	Weber, Thomas	PK	6-0	204	1	Arizona State	0/0
88	Whalen, Ryan	WR	6-1	202	2	Stanford	4/0
70	Wharton, Travelle	OG	6-4	312	9	South Carolina	16/16
77	Whitworth, Andrew	OT	6-7	335	7	LSU	16/16
68	Zeitler, Kevin	OG	6-4	315	R	Wisconsin	

Jason Allen has good size for a corner and should be a good scheme fit, though he is not especially fast. Ex-Cowboys CB Terence Newman adds further depth, but he really struggled a season ago. Adam Jones has starter-caliber athletic gifts but struggled in extended playing time a season ago. His biggest impact could come on special teams. Rookie Shaun Prater is also in the mix at cornerback. The picture at safety is also somewhat muddled beyond FS Reggie Nelson, who re-signed after drawing interest from the Jets. Nelson has ideal speed for a center fielder in a pass-happy league; he covers ground quickly. However, he is not especially physical. The Bengals released SS Chris Crocker, leaving Taylor Mays, Jeromy Miles and Robert Sands as the top candidates to replace him. Mays, a former second-round pick of San Francisco, could have the edge. Rookie George Iloka adds depth at free safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Mike Nugent made a strong recovery from an ACL tear the previous season, connecting on 33-of-38 field-goal attempts in 2011. He also thrived on kickoffs, with 36-of-80 (45 percent) going for touchbacks. P Kevin Huber also had a fine season. His 39.2-yard net average was a career high, and just 38-of-91 punts were returned. Brandon Tate has good speed and can return kickoffs and punts. He has three career return TDs. Adam Jones has shown special punt-return ability at points of his career and could have a role on special teams if he can stay healthy. The Bengals were very good covering kickoffs and punts in 2011 but did surrender a punt-return TD.

SUMMARY

The Bengals haven't made the playoffs in back-to-back seasons in the Marvin Lewis era, and they could be challenged to return to the postseason in 2012, with four tough games on tap against rugged AFC North rivals Baltimore and Pittsburgh. The Bengals could find themselves in a bittersweet spot — improved, compared to the previous season, but on the outside looking in when the playoffs begin.

4 CLEVELAND Browns

2012 PREDICTION: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

P. SHURMUR

HEAD COACH: Pat Shurmur
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brad Childress
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dick Jauron
OWNER: Randolph D. Lerner
STADIUM: Cleveland Browns Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 73,200
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.clevelandbrowns.com

The Browns have not won a division title since returning to NFL play in 1999, and they have made the postseason only once. Nine seasons have passed since that lone playoff appearance, a loss to division-rival Pittsburgh in the 2002 wild-card round.

Since then, the Steelers have won two Super Bowl titles. The Ravens have won five playoff games. Even the Bengals have been to the postseason three times.

The Browns have had their moments in this span. For instance, the '07 Browns had a potent offense and won 10 games; in another season, that would have been enough victories for a wild-card spot, but such is Cleveland's luck. However, that was just a flash in the darkness for a franchise that hasn't found a winning approach that has worked.

The 2012 Browns are the third team assembled by GM Tom Heckert and president Mike Holmgren, who clearly want to build via the draft. This blueprint has its merits, and the Browns have drafted fairly well in recent years, particularly on defense.

However, the offense, which has been one of the league's worst since late in the '08 season, continues to lag well behind that of its division rivals, and that lack of punch played a big role in Cleveland's 4-12 mark a season ago.

The Browns need playmakers to emerge if they are to seriously challenge in the division in 2012. Can Trent Richardson and Brandon Weeden be the catalysts for immediate improvement? That could tell the tale for this points-challenged club.

SPORTPICS

JOE THOMAS

OFFENSE

The Browns employ a West Coast offensive scheme, which emphasizes short, precise passing. The attack proved to be adept at moving the chains a season ago — the Browns were 12th in third-down conversion percentage — but points were hard to come by. Cleveland scored only 20 offensive touchdowns and ranked 30th in yards per play. Head coach Pat Shurmur called the plays in 2011, his first at the helm of an NFL club, and he is likely to continue in that role. However, Brad Childress will assume the offensive coordinator duties, which Shurmur had in '11.

QUARTERBACKS

It would be an upset if Brandon Weeden isn't Cleveland's Week One starter. The Browns are banking on the former minor-league baseball player to be a stabilizing and playmaking force at a position of great need. Weeden is bigger and stronger than 2011 starter Colt McCoy and has a better arm. The Browns also believe the accuracy he showed at Oklahoma State, where he completed 69.8 percent of his passes in two seasons as a starter, can carry over to the NFL level. The club also is confident that Weeden, who turns 29 in October, will be a quick study in the West Coast offense. But Weeden has some hurdles to overcome in order to thrive in Year One. He primarily operated out of the shotgun in college and will have to learn to take more snaps under center in this offense. He struggles

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
DE Juqua Parker, DE Frostee Rucker.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
S Mike Adams, OT Artis Hicks, RB Peyton Hillis, DE Jayme Mitchell, OT Tony Pashos, OG Eric Steinbach.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
OLT Joe Thomas

DEFENSIVE MVP
MLB D'Qwell Jackson

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
DT Phil Taylor

POSITION BATTLE
CB: Sheldon Brown vs. Dimitri Patterson

J. THOMAS

D. JACKSON

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
D	B-	D+	B	B-	C	B-	B

against pass-rush pressure and will need to improve in this regard with division rivals Baltimore, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh all capable of getting after the quarterback. Also, the West Coast offense can take years to master because of its complexity. With the addition of Weeden, McCoy could be dealt. McCoy must be a more precise passer — both in his accuracy and reads — to succeed on this level. He throws a catchable ball, can be pinpoint on shorter passes and has decent enough mobility. However, he lacks great arm strength, and his relatively short stature can lead to some batted-down throws. He is also slightly built, and he played through multiple injuries prior to a season-ending concussion a season ago. Seneca Wallace could be the top backup to Weeden if McCoy is moved. Wallace did not impress in three starts in place of the injured McCoy in 2011. His knowledge of this offense is a positive, as is his athleticism. He doesn't have a huge arm. Untested Thaddeus Lewis has worked under Pat Shurmur in St. Louis and in Cleveland.

RUNNING BACKS

Trent Richardson will be the focal point of the running game and could have a tremendous impact on the offense. Richardson, far and away the best running back available in the 2012 draft and the most highly regarded back the team has added since returning to NFL play in 1999, is a ferocious competitor and dynamic playmaker. He is a strong, physical, hammering inside force as a runner and a good pass receiver, too. Montario Hardesty could be Richardson's top backup, but his durability is a big-time concern, and he gained just 3.0 yards per carry a season ago. If he can return to his best form, he could be a nice complementary player in this offense. Former Packers RB Brandon Jackson, who missed the 2011 season with a turf-toe injury, could contribute on passing downs and as a change-of-pace runner, but he's not a dynamic back, as evidenced by his career average of 3.8 yards. Chris Ogbonnaya showed the most playmaking flair of the team's backs a season ago, but Jackson's return could cut into Ogbonnaya's opportunities on passing downs. FB Owen Marecic had an average rookie season and suffered two concussions.

RECEIVERS

Greg Little led the Browns in receptions (61) and yards (709) as a rookie and fits this offense well. Athletic and physical, the 6-2, 220-pound Little has a nice catching radius. He is not a burner but does have some run-after-the-catch ability. For as productive as Little was in 2011, he could have put up even better numbers, as he struggled to catch the ball at times. Overall, he caught barely more than 50 percent of the passes thrown his way and was credited with 12 drops per STATS LLC. Little didn't play football in 2010, so perhaps more improvement is forthcoming. This could be a make-or-break year for Mohamed Massaquoi, a big-play threat on his best days but generally inconsistent. Targeted 74 times in 2011, Massaquoi caught just 31 passes. Joshua Cribbs comes off his best season as a wideout and has shown he can be an effective performer on offense. He's the team's best downfield threat and is capable of the highlight-reel grab. However, he is also the key to the special teams, so judiciously using him on offense is key. Slot WR Jordan Norwood is quick but slightly built. Rookie WR Travis Benjamin has field-stretching speed but also is slightly built. TE Benjamin Watson, the top target at the position, suffered three concussions in 2011 but reportedly is expected to play this season. He is athletic and a seam-stretching threat as a receiver. Reserve TE Evan Moore is a converted wideout whose pass catching is his strength. Alex Smith is the most versatile of the tight ends. Jordan Cameron is a size-speed prospect.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Joe Thomas is the Browns' best player and one of the more skilled and consistent left tackles in the game. He is excellent in pass protection, and he more than does his share in the running game, too. Opposing pass rushers don't often get the best of him, and the Browns are strongest rushing to his side. He did not miss a regular-season snap in his first five NFL seasons, according to the club. C Alex Mack has a similar perfect regular-season attendance mark — no snaps missed in 48 regular-season games. An above-average starter, Mack has a solid all-around game. OLG Jason Pinkston has good size for the position and allowed only one sack as a rookie 16-game starter, per STATS LLC. The Browns frequently ran behind him last season but gained a mere 3.53 yards per carry. What's more, he had a tendency to get off-balance. ORG Shaun Lauvao moves well and has upside to improve but is undersized. The team gained only 3.26 yards per carry behind him last season. Second-round pick Mitchell Schwartz is the favorite to start at right tackle. He is extremely smart, steady and reliable and has good size for the position. However, he has had a history of back injuries. Backup Oniel Cousins struggled in his lone start at right tackle in '11. Athletic rookie OG Ryan Miller will vie for a reserve role.

DEFENSE

This is the team's strength. Cleveland successfully transitioned from a 3-4 to a 4-3 scheme in 2011, a credit to defensive coordinator Dick Jauron, GM Tom Heckert and the players. Jauron ideally

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Baltimore	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 7	at NY Giants	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	San Diego	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	BYE	
Nov. 18	at Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Pittsburgh	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Oakland	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 9	Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Denver	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Pittsburgh	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Cleveland

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Cincinnati	(-7)	17-27
Sept. 18	At Indianapolis	(-2)	27-19
Sept. 25	Miami	(+2)	17-16
Oct. 2	Tennessee	(-1.5)	13-31
Oct. 9	BYE		
Oct. 16	At Oakland	(+7)	17-24
Oct. 23	Seattle	(-3)	6-3
Oct. 30	At San Francisco	(+9)	10-20
Nov. 6	At Houston	(+10.5)	12-30
Nov. 13	St. Louis	(-3)	12-13
Nov. 20	Jacksonville	(-1.5)	14-10
Nov. 27	At Cincinnati	(+6.5)	20-23
Dec. 4	Baltimore	(+7)	10-24
Dec. 8	At Pittsburgh	(+14)	3-14
Dec. 18	At Arizona	(+6)	17-20*
Dec. 24	At Baltimore	(+11)	14-20
Jan. 1	Pittsburgh	(+7)	9-13

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**CIN.**	**@IND.**	**MIA.**	**TEN.**	**@OAK.**	**SEA.**	**@S.F.**	**@HOU.**	**ST.L.**	**JAX.**	**@CIN.**	**BALT.**	**@PITT.**	**@ARIZ.**	**@BALT.**	**PITT.**	
Score	17-27	27-19	17-16	13-31	17-24	6-3	10-20	12-30	12-13	14-10	20-23	10-24	3-14	17-20	14-20	9-13	
Total net yards	285	303	280	416	268	298	290	172	335	334	274	233	304	333	256	240	4621
Rushing yards	83	106	70	84	65	139	66	44	126	148	134	59	98	120	117	72	1531
Passing yards	202	197	210	332	203	159	224	128	209	186	140	174	206	213	139	168	3090
Rushing plays	26	34	19	22	21	45	23	21	30	28	30	17	30	29	25	15	415
Sacks allowed	2	1	0	4	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	39
Had intercepted	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	13
Fumbles lost	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Yards penalized	72	49	85	40	34	48	39	35	60	70	15	37	54	74	95	40	847
Punts	8	5	5	4	6	5	6	4	5	3	5	8	6	7	6	6	89
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	30:23	25:43	37:51	23:07	34:41	17:04	32:53	35:15	27:33	30:53	31:34	37:34	27:42	30:37	32:18	39:11	30:53
Total net yards	294	285	369	332	329	137	348	380	281	303	389	448	416	363	284	360	5318
Rushing yards	139	109	138	112	151	68	174	261	133	108	132	290	147	74	162	161	2359
Passing yards	155	176	231	220	178	69	174	119	148	195	257	158	269	289	122	199	2959
Rushing plays	33	26	38	29	40	16	39	40	32	29	32	55	28	24	37	36	534
Sacks allowed	4	2	5	0	2	4	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	32
Had intercepted	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	9
Fumbles lost	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	11
Yards penalized	22	21	93	45	35	68	40	15	55	81	35	18	97	13	51	37	726
Punts	8	4	3	6	4	7	5	2	5	5	4	3	4	7	5	4	76
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Cribbs	1-(-3)-0								3-21-0	1-2-0	1-2-0		1-3-0				7-25-0
Hardesty	5-18-0	3-1-0	14-67-0	7-22-0	11-35-0	33-95-0	2-6-0						11-24-0			2-(-2)-0	88-266-0
Hillis	17-57-0	27-94-2		10-46-0	6-14-0						19-65-0	12-45-0	10-25-0	26-99-1	24-112-0	10-30-0	161-587-3
McCoy	3-11-0	3-10-0	2-(-2)-0	4-16-0	4-16-0	9-29-0	8-30-0	3-6-0	4-4-0	5-27-0	6-38-0	4-12-0	6-15-0				61-212-0
Ogbonnaya						3-15-0	11-37-0	13-28-0	19-90-0	21-115-1	3-16-0	1-2-0	2-31-0				73-334-1
S. Wallace														3-21-0	1-5-0	3-44-0	7-70-0
**PASSING ** **																	
McCoy	19-40-1 213-2	22-32-0 211-1	19-39-1 210-2	40-61-1 350-1	21-45-0 215-2	20-35-1 178-0	22-34-1 241-1	14-22-1 146-1	20-27-0 218-0	17-24-1 199-1	16-34-1 151-2	17-35-1 192-1	18-35-2 209-0				265-463-11 2733-14
S. Wallace												1-1-0 4-0	1-1-0 13-0	18-31-0 226-1	19-33-1 147-1	16-41-1 177-0	55-107-2 567-2
RECEIVING																	
Cribbs	1-13-0	3-41-0	3-49-1	5-50-0	2-30-0	1-9-0	2-56-1	5-50-1	3-32-0	3-20-1	1-8-0		2-38-0	1-3-0	2-28-0	7-91-0	41-518-4
Hardesty			3-19-0	5-49-0	2-18-0	2-27-0							2-9-0				14-122-0
Hillis	6-30-0	4-23-0		5-23-0							2-(-4)-0	1-52-0		1-9-0	2-0-0	1-(-3)-0	22-130-0
Little	1-12-0	4-38-0	3-24-0	6-57-0	6-72-0	5-31-0	4-28-0	2-33-0	6-84-0	5-59-0	5-57-1	3-18-0	2-25-0	5-131-1	4-40-0		61-709-2
Massaquoi	3-77-0	3-45-0	2-26-1	6-46-0	3-30-1	1-15-0				2-19-0		1-7-0	3-44-0	3-42-0	2-17-0	2-16-0	31-384-2
Moore	3-35-1	1-16-1	2-19-0	1-15-0	3-16-0	4-35-0	2-17-0	2-11-0			1-3-0	2-28-1	4-55-0		5-35-1	4-39-0	34-324-4
Norwood	1-6-0			1-19-0			5-32-0	1-6-0	2-14-0	1-51-0	4-69-1	3-29-0	2-21-0	3-21-0			23-268-1
Ogbonnaya						5-43-0	5-24-0	1-13-0	2-19-0	2-19-0	1-4-0	5-28-0		1-3-0	1-12-0		23-165-0
A. Smith		3-19-0	1-9-0	1-13-0	2-14-1	1-13-0	1-20-0		2-15-0				2-19-0	1-9-0			14-131-1
Watson	3-45-1	2-16-0	5-64-0	6-48-1	3-35-0	1-5-0	3-64-0	2-26-0	3-30-0	2-18-0	2-14-0	3-34-0	2-11-0				37-410-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

hopes to get pressure with the four down linemen, and the Browns usually play man coverage on the back end. This defense rarely was outclassed last season, although it did have problems against the run.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Browns have a solid DT tandem in Ahtyba Rubin and Phil Taylor. Rubin, who led all NFL interior linemen with 83 tackles, is a tough matchup because of his size, strength and motor. He is relentless. Taylor has an ideal combination of size and movement ability and could improve with more experience. He can make a difference as a run stuffer and pass rusher. DLE Jabaal Sheard, like Taylor, started all 16 games as a rookie in 2011, and like Taylor, he looks as though he will be a core player for the foreseeable future. Sheard proved to be an NFL-caliber pass rusher as a rookie, with his quickness being a major asset. Ex-Bengals DE Frostee Rucker will start on the right side and could help Cleveland's run-stuffing efforts. He is solid across the board but lacks special traits. Ex-Eagles DE Juqua Parker, who had been a solid, all-around contributor in a rotation in Philadelphia, provides depth. DE Marcus Benard, whose edge-rushing ability is his strength, will try to stick as a reserve after missing most of last season following a motorcycle accident last October. Rookie DTs John Hughes and Billy Winn will compete for playing time as reserves. Hughes is a two-down run stuffer, and the underachieving Winn has some penetrating ability. Stout, versatile Brian Schafering can back up at end and tackle. DE Emmanuel Stephens and DT Brian Sanford add depth.

LINEBACKERS

MLB D'Qwell Jackson comes off a wonderful season. Jackson, who is active, quick and instinctive, recorded a career-best 158 tackles. He brings a definite energy to the defense, and his leadership ability is evident. In an offseason when the free-agent market saw some productive linebackers wait and wait before signing contracts, the Browns never let Jackson hit the market, signing him to a lucrative contract extension in February. WLB Chris Gocong is tough and instinctive and plays the run well. He's a solid starter. SLB Scott Fujita is experienced and smart but not especially fleet of foot and has missed 18 games the past three seasons because of injuries. He was facing a three-game suspension to start the season as of this writing. Swift but small Kaluka Maiava is the top reserve on the weak side. He has the most experience of the reserve 'backers. Rookies James-Michael Johnson, a versatile, productive 'backer, and Emmanuel Acho and second-year pros Benjamin Jacobs, Quinton Spears and Brian Smith add depth.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

CB Joe Haden is a Pro Bowl-caliber talent when he's at his best. The athletic Haden has good ball skills (37 passes defended, six interceptions in two NFL seasons) and is capable of shutting down the receiver across from him. He has more upside than anyone in the secondary. If he raises his game a little against top competition and creates a few more turnovers — he didn't have a pick last season — he could be considered among the AFC's elite. Haden, Dimitri Patterson and Sheldon Brown are the team's top three cornerbacks. Patterson received starter-level money to re-sign and could displace Brown as the starter at right cornerback in the base

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Trent Richardson	RB	Alabama	3
1	Brandon Weeden	QB	Oklahoma State	22
2	Mitchell Schwartz	ORT	California	37
3	John Hughes	NT	Cincinnati	87
4	Travis Benjamin	WR	Miami (Fla.)	100
4	James-Michael Johnson	MLB	Nevada	120
5	Ryan Miller	OG	Colorado	160
6	Emmanuel Acho	LB	Texas	204
6	Billy Winn	DT	Boise State	205
7	Trevin Wade	CB	Arizona	245
7	Brad Smelley	FB-TE	Alabama	247

T. RICHARDSON

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	15 LITTLE	10 Norwood	18 Mitchell	
OLT	73 THOMAS	75 Cousins		
OLG	62 PINKSTON	77 Greco		
C	55 MACK			
ORG	66 LAUVAO	63 Miller*	77 Greco	
ORT	72 SCHWARTZ*	75 Cousins	62 Pinkston	
TE	82 WATSON	89 Moore	81 Al. Smith	
WR	11 MASSAQUOI	16 Cribbs	80 Benjamin*	
QB	3 WEEDEN*	12 McCoy	6 Wallace	
RB	33 RICHARDSON*	20 Hardesty	29 B. Jackson	
FB	48 MARECIC	Smelley*	44 Williams	
DEFENSE				
DLE	97 SHEARD	95 Parker	96 Stephens	
DT	98 TAYLOR	93 Hughes*	69 Paxson	
DT	71 RUBIN	79 Winn*	70 Sanford	
DRE	92 RUCKER	91 Schaefering	58 Benard	
SLB	99 FUJITA	59 Acho*	90 Spears	
MLB	52 D. JACKSON	50 Johnson*	53 B. Smith	
WLB	51 GOCONG	56 Maiava	54 Jacobs	
LCB	23 HADEN	22 Skrine	26 Wade*	
RCB	24 BROWN	21 Patterson	31 Dockery	
SS	43 WARD	27 Hagg		
FS	28 YOUNG	41 Ventrone		
SPECIALISTS				
P	2 HODGES			
PK	4 DAWSON			
H	2 HODGES			
PR	16 CRIBBS			
KR	16 CRIBBS			
LS	57 YOUNT			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Chris Beake, offensive assistant; Dwaine Board, defensive line; Gary Brown, running backs; Chuck Bullough, defensive assistant; Brad Childress, offensive coordinator; Nolan Cromwell, senior assistant/offense; Bill Davis, linebackers; Steve Hagen, tight ends; Tim Hauck, defensive backs; Dick Jauron, defensive coordinator; Kent Johnston, strength and conditioning; Rick Lyle, asst. strength and conditioning; Shawn Mennenga, special-teams assistant; Ray Rhodes, senior assistant/defense; Pat Shurmur, head coach; Luke Steckel, assistant to the head coach; Chris Tabor, special-teams coordinator; George Warhop, offensive line; Mark Whipple, quarterbacks; Mike Wilson, wide receivers.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
59	Acho, Emmanuel	LB	6-2	238	R	Texas	
78	Alford, Dominic	OL	6-3	320	1	Minnesota	0/0
58	Benard, Marcus	DE	6-2	256	4	Jackson State	4/0
80	Benjamin, Travis	WR	5-10	175	R	Miami (Fla.)	
24	Brown, Sheldon	CB	5-10	200	11	South Carolina	16/16
84	Cameron, Jordan	TE	6-5	245	2	USC	8/2
75	Cousins, Oniel	OT	6-4	315	5	Texas-El Paso	4/1
16	Cribbs, Joshua	WR	6-1	215	8	Kent State	16/7
64	Daniels, Stanley	OL	6-4	320	2	Washington	0/0
4	Dawson, Phil	PK	5-11	200	14	Texas	16/0
31	Dockery, James	CB	6-1	185	2	Oregon State	12/0
94	English, Auston	DL	6-3	250	2	Oklahoma	7/0
99	Fujita, Scott	LB	6-5	250	11	California	10/10
51	Gocong, Chris	LB	6-2	263	7	Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo	16/16
77	Greco, John	OL	6-4	315	5	Toledo	15/0
87	Gronkowski, Dan	TE	6-5	255	4	Maryland	7/1
23	Haden, Joe	CB	5-11	190	3	Florida	15/15
27	Hagg, Eric	S	6-1	205	2	Nebraska	10/0
20	Hardesty, Montario	RB	6-0	225	3	Tennessee	10/4
2	Hodges, Reggie	P	6-0	220	6	Ball State	0/0
93	Hughes, John	DT	6-3	306	R	Cincinnati	
29	Jackson, Brandon	RB	5-10	216	6	Nebraska	0/0
52	Jackson, D'Qwell	LB	6-0	240	7	Maryland	16/16
54	Jacobs, Benjamin	LB	6-4	243	2	Fresno State	5/0
50	Johnson, James-Michael	LB	6-1	241	R	Nevada	
5	Lanning, Spencer	P	5-11	200	1	South Carolina	0/0
66	Lauvao, Shawn	OG	6-3	315	3	Arizona State	15/15
9	Lewis, Thaddeus	QB	6-2	200	2	Duke	0/0
15	Little, Greg	WR	6-2	220	2	North Carolina	16/12
55	Mack, Alex	C	6-4	311	4	California	16/16
56	Maiava, Kaluka	LB	6-0	229	4	USC	16/6
48	Marecic, Owen	FB	6-0	245	2	Stanford	14/4
11	Massaquoi, Mohamed	WR	6-2	207	4	Georgia	14/13
12	McCoy, Colt	QB	6-1	215	3	Texas	13/13
63	Miller, Ryan	OG	6-8	295	R	Colorado	
18	Mitchell, Carlton	WR	6-3	215	3	South Florida	11/0
89	Moore, Evan	TE	6-6	250	4	Stanford	16/4
10	Norwood, Jordan	WR	5-11	180	2	Penn State	14/4
25	Ogbonnaya, Chris	RB	6-0	225	3	Texas	13/4
95	Parker, Juqua	DE	6-2	250	12	Oklahoma State	12/0
21	Patterson, Dimitri	CB	5-10	200	6	Tuskegee	14/1
69	Paxson, Scott	DT	6-4	290	3	Penn State	16/0
62	Pinkston, Jason	OG	6-4	305	2	Pittsburgh	16/16
33	Richardson, Trent	RB	5-10	224	R	Alabama	
47	Robertson, Craig	LB	6-1	229	1	North Texas	0/0
71	Rubin, Ahtyba	DT	6-2	330	5	Iowa State	16/16
92	Rucker, Frostee	DE	6-3	280	7	USC	16/11
70	Sanford, Brian	DT	6-2	280	3	Temple	5/0
91	Schaefering, Brian	DE	6-4	295	3	Lindenwood (Mo.)	16/0
72	Schwartz, Mitchell	OT	6-5	317	R	California	
74	Shaw, Jarrod	OL	6-3	316	1	Tennessee	0/0
97	Sheard, Jabaal	DE	6-2	255	2	Pittsburgh	16/16
36	Sims, David	DB	5-9	204	1	Iowa State	0/0
22	Skrine, Buster	CB	5-9	185	2	Tenn.-Chattanooga	16/0
47	Smelley, Brad	FB	6-2	233	R	Alabama	
81	Smith, Alex	TE	6-4	258	8	Stanford	14/4
35	Smith, Armond	RB	5-9	194	1	Union	3/0
53	Smith, Brian	LB	6-3	240	1	Notre Dame	2/0
90	Spears, Quinton	LB	6-4	234	2	Prairie View A&M	13/0
17	Spencer, Owen	WR	6-3	185	1	North Carolina State	0/0
96	Stephens, Emmanuel	DE	6-3	255	2	Mississippi	11/3
98	Taylor, Phillip	DT	6-3	335	2	Baylor	16/16
73	Thomas, Joe	OT	6-6	312	6	Wisconsin	16/16
67	Tripp, Kiante	DT	6-6	276	2	Georgia	3/0
41	Ventrone, Ray	S	5-10	200	7	Villanova	15/0
26	Wade, Trevin	CB	5-11	192	R	Arizona	
6	Wallace, Seneca	QB	5-11	205	10	Iowa State	6/3
43	Ward, T. J.	S	5-10	200	3	Oregon	13/11
82	Watson, Benjamin	TE	6-3	255	9	Georgia	8/8
3	Weeden, Brandon	QB	6-3	221	R	Oklahoma State	
44	Williams, Eddie	FB	6-1	242	3	Idaho	3/0
13	Windsor, Rod	WR	6-2	205	2	Western New Mexico	0/0
79	Winn, Billy	DT	6-3	296	R	Boise State	
7	Wolfert, Jeff	PK	6-2	185	1	Missouri	0/0
28	Young, Usama	S	6-0	200	6	Kent State	16/7
57	Yount, Christian	LS	6-3	256	2	UCLA	12/0

defense. The quick Patterson held up well covering the slot last season and could again play that role this season, with Brown playing outside in three-WR sets. Brown is tough and reliable, but at the age of 33, he could be tried at safety. SS T.J. Ward is athletic and physical; if he can stay healthy, he could have a bright future. FS Usama Young looks the part and will get the first shot at replacing the departed Mike Adams in the lineup. Athletic Eric Hagg provides depth at safety, with Buster Skrine and Trevin Wade other options at corner. S Ray Ventrone contributes on special teams.

SPECIAL TEAMS

RS Joshua Cribbs' reputation as a special-teams star precedes him, and he's one of the few Browns whom the opposition respects for his game-breaking ability. While he has only one return score in the past two seasons, he still can shred unsound special-teams coverage as he proved against the Ravens late last season on his 84-yard punt-return TD. PK Phil Dawson remains steady on field goals and has range beyond 50 yards. He's no stranger to kicking in inclement weather. Dawson is not especially strong on kickoffs, however. P Reggie Hodges missed the 2011 season after suffering an Achilles tendon tear. He has good leg strength and employed a rugby-style, nose-down punt with success in short-field situations two seasons ago. The Browns' special-teams coverage, so strong in other recent years, was a weakness last season, and it's an area to watch, considering this club has little margin for error.

SUMMARY

The Browns are in a tough spot in the AFC North. The Steelers and Ravens, while each battling Father Time, are still formidable, and the Bengals are no slouches, either. If the offense perks up and the defense is the strength it was a season ago, the Browns could draw closer to their division rivals, but Cleveland still very much looks like a club in a state of transition. That's hardly an ideal place to be in the rugged North.

HOUSTON Texans

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 10-6 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

G. KUBIAK

HEAD COACH: Gary Kubiak
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rick Dennison
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Wade Phillips
OWNER: Robert C. McNair
STADIUM: Reliant Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 71,500
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.houstontexans.com

In 2011, their 10th year of existence, the Texans finally arrived. Their first-ever division crown and postseason berth weren't surprises — it was the way Houston handled its business that made the rest of the league take notice.

With OLB Mario Williams and WR Andre Johnson shelved most of the season, Houston still featured one of the NFL's more ferocious defenses and one of its more efficient offenses. Having weathered early storms, the Texans were cruising at 6-3.

Then, disaster struck.

QB Matt Schaub suffered a season-ending Lisfranc injury in Week 10, followed by a collarbone injury to backup Matt Leinart in Week 12. Suddenly, Houston's Super Bowl aspirations were in the hands of fifth-round rookie T.J. Yates.

Yates, at first, kept the club afloat, but the offense became one-dimensional as the Texans limped to the finish line. RB Arian Foster and a superb defensive showing, masterminded by defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, carried the Texans past the Bengals in the wild-card round. However, Yates' disastrous performance in a divisional-round loss in Baltimore left the Texans wondering what could have been.

The offseason wasn't kind to the salary-cap-challenged Texans, who let Williams depart for Buffalo and parted ways with a pair of locker-room favorites, ILB DeMeco Ryans and ORT Eric Winston, to shed payroll.

Nonetheless, with a healthy Schaub returning, the playoff-tested Texans are favorites to win the AFC South again and are heavyweight contenders to reach the Super Bowl.

ICON PHOTOS

ARIAN FOSTER

OFFENSE

With Matt Schaub and Andre Johnson missing time in 2011, Gary Kubiak leaned heavily on the NFL's second-ranked rushing attack. The Texans possess arguably the best backfield in football and an offensive line that employs the stretch-zone blocking scheme as well as any unit in the league. However, with two new starters on the right side, it remains to be seen if the line will have the same synergy. Kubiak's West Coast passing game is based on rhythm and timing, featuring plenty of quick drops and play-action bootlegs and rollouts.

QUARTERBACKS

Matt Schaub was putting together a solid campaign before suffering a season-ending Lisfranc injury in his right foot against the Buccaneers late in Week 10. Now trying to work his way back to health and entering a contract year, Schaub, who will be 31 years old this season, is at a critical juncture in his career. Gary Kubiak has great confidence in Schaub because of the QB's mastery of the offense, as well as his accuracy as a passer and sound decision making. Schaub doesn't have a cannon arm but is very accurate on deep balls and intermediate routes — it is the short throws that sometimes go astray. His lack of mobility tends to lead to Schaub taking too many hits, and it bears watching to see whether the foot injury will

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

P Donnie Jones.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

CB Jason Allen, OG Mike Brisiel, TE Joel Dreessen, ILB DeMeco Ryans, OLB Mario Williams, OT Eric Winston.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Arian Foster

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE J.J. Watt

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
OLB Brooks Reed

POSITION BATTLE
OG: Open competition

A. FOSTER

J.J. WATT

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	A	B	B	B+	B+	B+	C+

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Miami	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Denver	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 30	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 8	at N.Y. Jets	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	Green Bay	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 21	Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	BYE	
Nov. 4	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Chicago	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 18	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Detroit	12:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	at New England	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Houston

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Indianapolis	(-8.5)	34-7
Sept. 18	At Miami	(-3)	23-13
Sept. 25	At New Orleans	(+3.5)	33-40
Oct. 2	Pittsburgh	(-4)	17-10
Oct. 9	Oakland	(-5)	20-25
Oct. 16	At Baltimore	(+7)	14-29
Oct. 23	At Tennessee	(+2.5)	41-7
Oct. 30	Jacksonville	(-10)	24-14
Nov. 6	Cleveland	(-10.5)	30-12
Nov. 13	At Tampa Bay	(-3.5)	37-9
Nov. 20	BYE		
Nov. 27	At Jacksonville	(-6.5)	20-13
Dec. 4	Atlanta	(+2)	17-10
Dec. 11	At Cincinnati	(+2.5)	20-19
Dec. 18	Carolina	(-5)	13-28
Dec. 22	At Indianapolis	(-7)	16-19
Jan. 1	Tennessee	(+2.5)	22-23
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 7	Cincinnati	(-4)	31-10
Jan. 15	At Baltimore	(+7.5)	13-20

further impede his movement skills. Competitive backup T.J. Yates earned high marks for his preparation and poise in a tough spot last year, although he was clearly rattled in the Texans' divisional-round loss in Baltimore. He is an accurate short passer but doesn't possess a strong arm.

RUNNING BACKS

After battling hamstring injuries early in the season, Arian Foster rounded into form as one of the league's most versatile and productive backs. Foster became only the fifth back in NFL history to have at least 1,000 yards rushing (1,224) and 600 receiving yards (614) in consecutive seasons. He was rewarded in the offseason with a five-year deal worth up to $43.5 million. A physical runner with explosive one-cut ability and great instincts and vision, Foster isn't a burner, but he has enough speed to rip off big gains. He also gets stronger as games wear on and is an integral part of Houston's passing game. The only knock on Foster is that he is often nicked up — he has missed time in each of the past two seasons. After missing his rookie season with a broken leg, backup Ben Tate made up for lost time in his second season. He came up just 58 yards shy of 1,000 and opened the season with consecutive 100-yard rushing days when Foster was sidelined. A powerful, downhill runner with separation speed, Tate has a bright future. His blocking and receiving skills remain works in progress, however. FB-TE James Casey, a jack-of-all-trades, is not a prototypical fullback, as he lacks size and bulk, but he has tremendous hands and athleticism and is a valuable chess piece.

RECEIVERS

Houston's offense lacked a vertical dimension and a wideout who could consistently separate with Andre Johnson missing nine games because of hamstring injuries. When healthy, he remains one of the best wideouts in the game. His rare blend of size, strength and speed is the prototype for a true No. 1 wideout in today's NFL. Johnson is extremely tough, competitive and very aggressive with the ball in the air. He has a wide catching radius and strong, dependable hands. Heady No. 2 WR Kevin Walter is coming off his lowest output in the past five seasons. A dependable blocker and route runner, he is an average athlete who has trouble separating. The drafting of former Big Ten standouts DeVier Posey and Keshawn Martin led to the release of the maligned Jacoby Jones. In Posey and Martin, the Texans found a pair of playmakers who can stretch the field and, Houston hopes, will draw extra attention away from Johnson. Posey has good size and 4.4 speed, but his stock slid in the draft because he was suspended for 10 games in his senior season for receiving improper benefits. Martin's suddenness and explosive short-area burst make him a dangerous after-the-catch runner and returner on special teams. A healthy Owen Daniels was a welcome sight and a major contributor to the offense. The veteran tight end's 54 receptions for 677 yards and three TDs don't tell the whole story; he was relied on heavily with Johnson out. Daniels is a good athlete who excels on intermediate routes while also possessing the speed to stretch the seam. He has worked hard to become a better in-line blocker. Backup Garrett Graham replaces Joel Dreessen, who departed in free agency. Graham has battled shoulder and hamstring injuries in his first two seasons, but he gives Houston a capable blocking replacement if he can stay healthy.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Texans will have two new starters along the front wall. OLT Duane Brown, Houston's best blocker last season, and C Chris Myers, who received a lucrative contract extension in the offseason, are rock-solid. Team insiders say the decision to release ORT Eric Winston came down to the Texans' valuing Myers more. Brown, a lengthy and impressive physical specimen who was named second-team All-Pro, continues to blossom into one of the game's better blind-side protectors. Myers, who played in his first Pro Bowl last season, is an excellent leader and the glue of the unit. He is undersized, yet incredibly durable and perfectly in tune with the offense. OLG Wade Smith didn't have his finest season, but he continues to be steady. ORG Antoine Caldwell is more athletic than his predecessor, Mike Brisiel, and has the strength and starting experience to thrive if he can stay healthy. Long-armed ORT Rashad Butler, a natural pass protector, missed last season with a shoulder injury, but he gained valuable starting experience in 2010 serving as the starter while Brown was suspended. Rookies Brandon Brooks and Ben Jones could challenge Caldwell and Smith for spots in the interior. The 6-5, 353-pound Brooks is exceptionally large by Houston's standards, but he possesses impressive balance and quickness for a big man. The versatile and intelligent Jones also vastly improves the depth behind Myers. OT Derek Newton, developmental rookie OT Nick Mondek and OG Thomas Austin provide depth.

DEFENSE

Coordinator Wade Phillips earned PFW/PFWA Assistant Coach of the Year honors for his magical transformation of the Texans' "D" from the 30th-ranked stop unit in 2010 to the NFL's No. 2-ranked "D" last season. The calling card of Phillips' attacking 3-4 scheme is generating constant pressure to disrupt the timing and comfort level of the offense. Phillips relied primarily on the front seven to wreak havoc

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS																	
	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	IND.	@MIA.	@N.O.	PITT.	OAK.	@BALT.	@TEN.	JAX.	CLEV.	@T.B.	@JAX.	ATL.	@CIN.	CAR.	@IND.	TEN.	
Score	34-7	23-13	33-40	17-10	20-25	14-29	41-7	24-14	30-12	37-9	20-13	17-10	20-19	13-28	16-19	22-23	
Total net yards	384	345	473	318	473	293	518	358	380	420	215	337	412	358	283	387	5954
Rushing yards	167	138	109	180	70	93	222	156	261	185	88	162	144	150	171	152	2448
Passing yards	217	207	364	138	403	200	296	202	119	235	127	175	268	208	112	235	3506
Rushing plays	41	36	25	35	25	25	47	39	40	44	31	44	28	25	31	30	546
Sacks allowed	1	3	2	0	3	4	0	2	0	1	0	3	5	2	4	3	33
Had intercepted	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	9
Fumbles lost	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	11
Yards penalized	30	76	56	64	50	15	68	60	15	54	80	35	50	60	84	55	852
Punts	2	6	2	5	8	6	2	6	2	4	10	5	2	2	6	6	74
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	23:16	25:54	29:54	28:17	25:35	32:12	22:02	24:41	24:45	24:54	31:39	24:56	28:16	32:34	32:55	25:22	27:19
Total net yards	236	306	454	296	278	402	148	174	172	231	255	337	285	316	320	361	4571
Rushing yards	64	153	100	118	94	113	53	84	44	90	105	70	101	166	95	86	1536
Passing yards	172	153	354	178	184	289	95	90	128	141	150	267	184	150	225	275	3035
Rushing plays	16	28	22	22	22	30	15	25	21	18	24	18	29	34	32	22	378
Sacks allowed	3	2	2	5	3	2	2	1	4	4	7	0	1	2	3	3	44
Had intercepted	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	17
Fumbles lost	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	10
Yards penalized	60	20	26	45	89	25	76	39	35	49	30	43	27	40	35	47	686
Punts	6	3	3	4	7	2	7	8	4	6	9	4	4	5	5	6	83
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Foster		10-33-0		30-155-1	22-68-0	15-49-0	25-115-2	33-112-1	19-124-1	17-84-1	22-65-1	31-111-1	15-41-0	16-109-1	23-158-1		278-1224-10
Jones							1-(-4)-0			1-2-0					1-15-0	1-4-0	4-17-0
Schaub	4-0-0	2-2-0		2-1-0	1-0-0	1-3-0		1-2-1	3-0-1	1-1-0							15-9-2
Tate	24-116-1	23-103-0	19-82-0	2-20-0		9-41-0	15-104-0	5-42-0	12-115-1	13-63-1	5-26-0	11-41-0	8-67-0	7-26-0	6-(-1)-0	16-97-1	175-942-4
Ward	11-39-1						5-7-0		6-22-0	11-36-1						12-50-0	45-154-2
**PASSING ** **																	
Delhomme																18-28-0 211-1	18-28-0 211-1
Leinart											10-13-0 57-1						10-13-0 57-1
Schaub	17-24-2 220-1	21-29-0 230-2	22-39-1 373-3	14-21-0 138-1	24-51-2 416-2	21-37-0 220-1	18-23-0 296-2	16-30-0 225-1	14-23-1 119-0	11-15-0 242-2							178-292-6 2479-15
Yates											8-15-0 70-0	12-25-0 188-1	26-44-1 300-2	19-30-2 212-0	13-16-0 132-0	4-4-0 47-0	82-134-3 949-3
RECEIVING																	
Casey	3-29-0		5-126-1	1-8-0					1-1-0		1-5-0					7-91-0	18-260-1
Daniels	1-12-0	3-25-1	5-76-1	5-69-1	7-89-0	2-13-0	4-71-0	4-60-0	3-32-0	3-31-0	4-31-0	3-35-0	7-100-0	2-29-0	1-4-0		54-677-3
Dreessen	1-21-0	1-9-0		1-14-0	5-112-1		2-31-1	2-19-1	2-27-0		1-20-1	1-3-1	3-22-1	2-19-0	4-38-0	3-18-0	28-353-6
Foster		2-7-0		3-11-0	5-116-0	6-52-0	5-119-1	1-12-0	5-26-0	4-102-1	7-24-0	3-41-0	4-33-0	5-58-0	3-16-0		53-617-2
A. Johnson	7-95-1	7-93-1	7-128-0	4-36-0							2-22-0	4-97-0				2-21-0	33-492-2
Jones	3-43-0	3-48-0	1-0-0		1-9-0	4-76-1	2-27-0	3-59-0	2-28-0	2-87-1	1-10-0		3-39-0	1-24-0	2-27-0	3-35-0	31-512-2
Walter	1-14-0		3-35-1		5-81-1	6-52-0	3-35-0	5-70-0	1-5-0	1-6-0	2-15-0	1-12-0	6-76-1	2-26-0	3-47-0		39-474-3

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

in the backfield, with the back end playing tight press-zone coverage. Phillips used more twists and stunts up front as the season progressed.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Second-year DLE J.J. Watt was even better than advertised after being drafted 10th overall last year. Watt has tremendous power to overwhelm blockers and stack-and-shed ability to stand up ballcarriers in the backfield. Nowhere was the lengthy Watt's superior athleticism and motor more evident than in the wild-card victory over the Bengals. Late in the second quarter, Watt fought off his blocker, leapt into the air and plucked Andy Dalton's throw with his outstretched arms, rumbling 29 yards for the tide-turning pick-six right before halftime. DRE Antonio Smith earned his first Pro Bowl nod, finishing second on the team in sacks (6½). A hard-nosed, inside-out rusher, Smith has good acceleration off the edge and brings a feistiness to the Texans' "D." Houston relied on a tandem of undersized nose tackles to man the middle. Unheralded Shaun Cody is a good athlete who has been a consistent performer the past several seasons. Earl Mitchell is the more active of the top two defensive tackles, with quickness to shoot gaps. DE Tim Jamison has been dubbed a "young Antonio Smith" by Gary Kubiak. Jamison provides depth, along with high-motor but injury-prone rookie Jared Crick.

LINEBACKERS

Voted team MVP by his peers, SILB Brian Cushing returned to his 2009 Defensive Rookie of the Year form last season, leading the Texans with 114 tackles. A physical, sideline-to-sideline 'backer who gives 100 percent on every play, Cushing was a "holy terror," according to Wade Phillips. WOLB Connor Barwin thrived last season, leading the club with 11½ sacks and 28 QB hits. A terrific athlete and natural pass rusher, Barwin is also very smart and coachable. As a rookie, SOLB Brooks Reed came into his own quicker than expected after starter Mario Williams was lost for the season. Reed registered six sacks, including dropping the QB in five consecutive games. Reed isn't the fastest or most explosive pass rusher, but he has a great motor and weight-room strength. Whitney Mercilus gives Phillips the third pass rusher he coveted following Williams' departure. The athletic and high-motor Mercilus definitely knows the way home (16 sacks, nine forced fumbles in his final season at Illinois) and will be on the field with Reed and Barwin in Houston's sub packages. WILB Darryl Sharpton is penciled in for the starting spot vacated by DeMeco Ryans. The club loved what it saw out of Sharpton, a short, downhill thumper who was taking snaps away from Ryans before sustaining a season-ending quad injury in Week Eight. Ex-Cowboy Bradie James' play fell off considerably last season, as the big 'backer was washed out of more running plays and was taken off the field in Dallas' sub packages, but the 31-year-old has plenty of experience in Phillips' "D" and could prove to be a valuable mentor and contingency plan for the oft-injured Sharpton. Jesse Nading, Mister Alexander and Bryan Braman provide depth.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Team insiders say LCB Johnathan Joseph was worth every penny of the $23.5 million guaranteed he received last offseason. He has great speed and athleticism, and he consistently matched up against the opposition's top wideout. The jury is still out on maligned RCB Kareem

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Whitney Mercilus	OLB	Illinois	26
3	DeVier Posey	WR	Ohio State	68
3	Brandon Brooks	OG	Miami (Ohio)	76
4	Ben Jones	C-OG	Georgia	99
4	Keshawn Martin	WR	Michigan State	121
4	Jared Crick	DE	Nebraska	126
5	Randy Bullock	PK	Texas A&M	161
6	Nick Mondek	OT-OG	Purdue	195

W. MERCILUS

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	80 A. JOHNSON	82 Martin*	15 Maehl
OLT	76 BROWN	75 Newton	69 Mondek*
OLG	74 W. SMITH	61 Austin	
C	55 MYERS	60 B. Jones*	
ORG	62 CALDWELL	79 Brooks*	
ORT	78 BUTLER	66 Gardner	
TE	81 DANIELS	88 Graham	
WR	83 WALTER	11 Posey*	
QB	8 SCHAUB	13 Yates	
RB	23 FOSTER	44 Tate	40 J. Williams
FB	86 CASEY		
DEFENSE			
DLE	99 WATT	96 Jamison	
NT	95 CODY	92 Mitchell	
DRE	94 A. SMITH	93 Crick*	
LOLB	58 REED	59 Mercilus*	50 Braman
LILB	56 CUSHING	52 Dobbins	97 D. Smith
RILB	51 SHARPTON	53 James	54 Alexander
ROLB	98 BARWIN	57 Nading	
LCB	24 JOSEPH	21 McCain	22 McManis
RCB	25 K. JACKSON	26 B. Harris	36 Carmichael
SS	29 QUIN	31 Keo	27 Demps
FS	38 MANNING	33 Nolan	42 T. Williams
SPECIALISTS			
P	5 DO. JONES	2 Hartmann	
PK	4 BULLOCK		
H	5 DO. JONES		
PR	82 MARTIN*		
KR	38 MANNING	82 Martin*	
LS	46 WEEKS		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

John Benton, offensive line; Perry Carter, asst. defensive backs; Rick Dennison, offensive coordinator; Karl Dorrell, quarterbacks; Chick Harris, running backs; Reggie Herring, linebackers; Vance Joseph, defensive backs; Larry Kirksey, wide receivers; Bill Kollar, asst. head coach/defensive line; Gary Kubiak, head coach; Mark Lubick, offensive assistant; Joe Marciano, special-teams coordinator; Brian Pariani, tight ends; Wade Phillips, defensive coordinator; Frank Pollack, asst. offensive line; Jim Ryan, offensive assistant; Mark Schiotz, strength and conditioning assistant; Cedric Smith, strength and conditioning.

Jackson, a good-sized, physical corner with good tackling ability. Jackson has good cover skills but struggles to turn for the ball and lacks recovery speed. FS Danieal Manning made all the calls and was a leader in the secondary. He is an elite athlete with outstanding range and hitting ability. SS Glover Quin made a seamless transition from corner to safety. He can play in the slot or patrol center field, and he is a very sure tackler. Nickel back Brice McCain was exceptional locking down opponents man-to-man inside. He exhibits great quickness and cover skills. 2011 second-rounder Brandon Harris and fourth-rounder Roc Carmichael should see more opportunities to get on the field, particularly if Jackson struggles. Quintin Demps and Shiloh Keo bolster the safety group.

SPECIAL TEAMS

For the first time in franchise history, the Texans drafted a placekicker. Groza Award winner Randy Bullock, who's extremely consistent, will replace Neil Rackers. Meanwhile, former Ram Donnie Jones will do the punting. Houston's coverage and return units are solid, with Danieal Manning and rookie Keshawn Martin providing big-play potential in the return game and Jesse Nading and Bryan Braman leading the way in coverage.

SUMMARY

Despite a difficult offseason, the Texans remain the most talented club in the AFC South, and they have legitimate Super Bowl aspirations if Matt Schaub is 100 percent healthy and they catch a few more breaks. Houston's breakthrough 2011 campaign wouldn't have been possible without the club regularly calling on its depth, however, and similar contributions from backups stepping into the starting lineup as a result of offseason changes again will be needed. Head coach Gary Kubiak and his staff proved last season that they can get the most out of their players under difficult circumstances, so the club should be up to the challenge of entering 2012 in an unfamiliar position — with a target on its back.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
54	Alexander, Mister	ILB	6-3	242	2	Florida State	8/0
61	Austin, Thomas	OG	6-4	310	2	Clemson	1/0
98	Barwin, Connor	OLB	6-4	264	4	Cincinnati	16/16
50	Braman, Bryan	OLB	6-5	246	2	West Texas A&M	16/0
	Brock, Logan	TE	6-3	260	R	TCU	
79	Brooks, Brandon	OG	6-5	343	R	Miami (Ohio)	
76	Brown, Duane	OT	6-4	320	5	Virginia Tech	16/16
	Bryant, D.J.	OLB	6-3	239	R	James Madison	
4	Bullock, Randy	PK	5-9	205	R	Texas A&M	
78	Butler, Rashad	OT	6-4	317	7	Miami (Fla.)	2/0
62	Caldwell, Antoine	OG	6-3	311	4	Alabama	5/3
36	Carmichael, Roc	CB	5-10	184	1	Virginia Tech	0/0
86	Casey, James	FB	6-3	243	4	Rice	14/7
95	Cody, Shaun	NT	6-4	301	8	USC	16/16
93	Crick, Jared	DE	6-4	279	R	Nebraska	
56	Cushing, Brian	ILB	6-3	248	4	USC	16/16
81	Daniels, Owen	TE	6-3	247	7	Wisconsin	16/15
27	Demps, Quintin	SS	5-11	206	5	Texas-El Paso	9/0
52	Dobbins, Tim	LB	6-1	245	7	Iowa State	15/0
	Fangupo, Loni	NT	6-1	323	R	Brigham Young	
	Ford, Jason	FB	5-10	238	R	Illinois	
23	Foster, Arian	RB	6-1	229	4	Tennessee	13/13
66	Gardner, Andrew	OT-OG	6-6	308	3	Georgia Tech	1/0
88	Graham, Garrett	TE	6-3	240	3	Wisconsin	7/0
	Grimes, Jonathan	RB	5-10	201	R	William & Mary	
26	Harris, Brandon	CB	5-10	195	2	Miami (Fla.)	7/0
91	Harris, Ra'Shon	DT	6-5	300	3	Oregon	0/0
2	Hartmann, Brett	P	6-2	227	2	Central Michigan	12/0
16	Holliday, Trindon	KR	5-5	170	3	LSU	1/0
	Hunter, David	DT	6-2	283	R	Houston	
19	Iglesias, Juaquin	WR	6-1	202	2	Oklahoma	0/0
	Jackson, Jerrell	WR	6-1	196	R	Missouri	
25	Jackson, Kareem	DB	5-10	188	3	Alabama	15/13
53	James, Bradie	ILB	6-2	246	10	LSU	16/13
96	Jamison, Tim	DE	6-3	285	4	Michigan	16/0
18	Jean, Lestar	WR	6-3	205	1	Florida Atlantic	0/0
80	Johnson, Andre	WR	6-3	226	10	Miami (Fla.)	7/7
	Johnson, Dalano	DE	6-5	266	R	Bowie State (Md.)	
60	Jones, Ben	C	6-3	316	R	Georgia	
5	Jones, Donnie	P	6-2	220	9	LSU	16/0
	Jones, Dwight	WR	6-3	230	R	North Carolina	
24	Joseph, Johnathan	CB	5-11	191	7	South Carolina	15/15
	Keenum, Case	QB	6-1	208	R	Houston	
31	Keo, Shiloh	S	6-0	212	2	Idaho	10/0
	Louis, Mario	WR	6-1	190	R	Grambling State	
	Loiseau, Shawn	ILB	6-2	244	R	Merrimack (Mass.)	
15	Maehl, Jeff	WR	6-0	178	2	Oregon	3/0
38	Manning, Danieal	S	5-11	209	7	Abilene Christian	13/13
	Marrow, Desmond	S	6-2	208	R	Toledo	
82	Martin, Keshawn	WR	5-11	189	R	Michigan State	
21	McCain, Brice	CB	5-9	180	4	Utah	16/0
22	McManis, Sherrick	CB	5-11	193	3	Northwestern	9/0
	Meggett, Davin	RB	5-8	211	R	Maryland	
	Menkin, Nate	OT	6-4	301	R	Mary Hardin-Baylor	
59	Mercilus, Whitney	OLB	6-4	261	R	Illinois	
92	Mitchell, Earl	NT	6-3	289	3	Arizona	16/0
69	Mondek, Nick	OT	6-5	307	R	Purdue	
	Moore, Rennie	DE	6-4	271	R	Clemson	
55	Myers, Chris	C	6-4	289	8	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
57	Nading, Jesse	OLB	6-5	261	4	Colorado State	11/0
75	Newton, Derek	OT	6-5	307	2	Arkansas State	14/0
33	Nolan, Troy	S	6-2	202	4	Arizona State	14/3
	Pleasant, Eddie	S	5-10	211	R	Oregon	
11	Posey, DeVier	WR	6-2	210	R	Ohio State	
29	Quin, Glover	SS	6-0	209	4	New Mexico	16/16
58	Reed, Brooks	OLB	6-2	250	2	Arizona	16/11
	Robertson, Tracy	DE	6-4	280	R	Baylor	
8	Schaub, Matt	QB	6-5	241	9	Virginia	10/10
51	Sharpton, Darryl	ILB	5-11	230	3	Miami (Fla.)	8/0
94	Smith, Antonio	DE	6-4	280	9	Oklahoma State	16/16
97	Smith, Derrell	LB	6-2	232	1	Syracuse	0/0
71	Smith, Shelley	OG	6-3	297	3	Colorado State	0/0
74	Smith, Wade	OG	6-4	310	9	Memphis	16/16
	Supernaw, Phillip	TE	6-4	253	R	Ouachita Baptist	
44	Tate, Ben	RB	5-11	214	3	Auburn	15/2
79	Wallace, Cody	C	6-4	300	4	Texas A&M	0/0
83	Walter, Kevin	WR	6-3	217	10	Eastern Michigan	15/14
99	Watt, J.J.	DE	6-5	288	2	Wisconsin	16/16
46	Weeks, Jonathan	LS	5-10	242	3	Baylor	16/0
	White, Cody	OG	6-3	302	R	Illinois State	
	Williams, Greg	ILB	6-2	239	R	Pittsburgh	
40	Williams, Javarris	RB	5-10	223	4	Tennessee State	0/0
42	Williams, Torri	DB	6-2	208	3	Purdue	0/0
13	Yates, T.J	QB	6-4	220	2	North Carolina	6/5

2 TENNESSEE Titans

2012 PREDICTION: 8-8 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 9-7 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. MUNCHAK

HEAD COACH: Mike Munchak
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Chris Palmer
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jerry Gray
OWNER: K.C. "Bud" Adams Jr.
STADIUM: LP Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 68,798
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.titansonline.com

Even the most bullish Titans fans likely didn't envision their club being in contention for a postseason spot in Week 17 last season. After all, it was teams like the Titans, with a rookie head coach, new QB and two new systems to install in a lockout-shortened offseason, that were expected to struggle.

Then again, those same fans probably didn't foresee owner Bud Adams instructing his front office this offseason to do whatever it took to land QB Peyton Manning, just weeks after GM Ruston Webster stated he was happy with the QBs on the roster.

As it turned out, Tennessee missed out on the playoffs in a tiebreaker with the Bengals, Manning was courted heavily by the Titans before choosing the Broncos, and the Titans will have an open QB competition between Matt Hasselbeck, who was very solid last season, and Jake Locker, whose upside was evident in his few opportunities as a rookie.

Whichever QB earns the starting job will need the old Chris Johnson back. Johnson was a shadow of his former self in 2011 after cashing in on a megadeal following a lengthy holdout.

Mike Munchak made a big impression in his first year at the helm, but he needs to repair the interior of his offensive line in order to help Johnson rebound, as well as find more difference makers to plug into his young "D."

There is still a gap between the Titans and the rival Texans, but Munchak's club shouldn't be discounted after it grew up quickly last season.

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN
CHRIS JOHNSON

OFFENSE

Coordinator Chris Palmer planned on RB Chris Johnson being the focal point of the offense in 2011. But Johnson failed to hold up his end of the bargain, forcing QB Matt Hasselbeck to carry the club much of the season. Whether Hasselbeck or Jake Locker is under center in '12, the Titans' No. 1 priority will be fixing what ailed the league's 31st-ranked rushing attack a season ago. Tennessee's stretch-zone blocking scheme is paired with a quick-hitting passing attack that featured a more vertical element last season. Palmer's goal is to run the ball 55 percent of the time.

QUARTERBACKS

Competition under center will be heated, but sources close to the situation believe Matt Hasselbeck will emerge as the Week One starter. Hasselbeck is coming off his best statistical season since 2007, throwing for 3,571 yards and 18 touchdowns, despite the club's struggles on the ground and a season-ending knee injury to top wideout Kenny Britt in Week Four. Hasselbeck can make all the throws and read defenses, and he has a great understanding of what Chris Palmer wants to do offensively. Hasselbeck, who turns 37 in late September, has outstanding intangibles; he was the team's leader on and off the field, changing the culture in the Titans' locker room and showing Locker what it takes to be a pro. He surprised league observers by starting all 16 games, but

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
OG Steve Hutchinson, DE Kamerion Wimbley.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
CB Cortland Finnegan, DE William Hayes, DE Jason Jones, MLB Barrett Ruud.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Chris Johnson

DEFENSIVE MVP
CB Jason McCourty

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
QB Jake Locker

POSITION BATTLE
QB: Matt Hasselbeck vs. Jake Locker

C. JOHNSON

J. McCOURTY

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B	B+	B	B+	B	B	B-	A-

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	New England	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at San Diego	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Pittsburgh	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	BYE	
Nov. 25	at Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Houston	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 17	N.Y. Jets	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Tennessee

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Jacksonville	(-1)	14-16
Sept. 18	Baltimore	(+6)	26-13
Sept. 25	Denver	(-7)	17-14
Oct. 2	At Cleveland	(+1.5)	31-13
Oct. 9	At Pittsburgh	(+3.5)	17-38
Oct. 16	BYE		
Oct. 23	Houston	(-2.5)	7-41
Oct. 30	Indianapolis	(-7.5)	27-10
Nov. 6	Cincinnati	(-2.5)	17-24
Nov. 13	At Carolina	(+3.5)	30-3
Nov. 20	At Atlanta	(+6)	17-23
Nov. 27	Tampa Bay	(-3)	23-17
Dec. 4	At Buffalo	(+1)	23-17
Dec. 11	New Orleans	(+3.5)	17-22
Dec. 18	At Indianapolis	(-6.5)	13-27
Dec. 24	Jacksonville	(-8)	23-17
Jan. 1	At Houston	(-2.5)	23-22

durability remains his Achilles' heel. Unlike Hasselbeck, who is best working inside the pocket, Locker's greatest asset is his athleticism, which allows him to extend plays with his legs and find receivers while on the move. Locker's arm strength is far superior to Hasselbeck's, but he still tends to sail some throws, and his accuracy and feel for the game must improve.

RUNNING BACKS

Make no mistake: The elite speed and elusiveness that helped Chris Johnson rush for more than 2,000 yards in 2009 didn't suddenly disappear. Johnson is still a home-run threat from anywhere on the field and one of the more dangerous players in space in the game today. But his desire and toughness appeared suspect far too often last season. He will never be a guy who is going to break a lot of tackles or run over defenders. Still, he rarely made it past first contact and didn't hit the openings that were there with the same urgency. Johnson still managed to eclipse the 1,000-yard rushing mark for a fourth consecutive season, but his conditioning after reporting to camp late was a problem that persisted for roughly half the season. Chris Palmer tried to get the ball in his hands in many different ways, from halfback tosses to splitting Johnson out wide, and that certainly will continue as he remains the Titans' best offensive weapon. Backups Javon Ringer and Jamie Harper will compete for carries behind Johnson. Ringer is a crafty runner who failed to take carries from Johnson when the starter was struggling. Harper is more of a north-south power back who looked very good in his first preseason action but saw very few chances during the regular campaign. FB Quinn Johnson gives the Titans more of a downhill, physical presence than former starter Ahmard Hall.

RECEIVERS

Kenny Britt was off to the best start of his career before tearing both the ACL and MCL in his right knee in Week Three. The strong and physical Britt looks the part of a No. 1 wideout. He has a wide catching radius and easily outleaps defenders for the ball. But he has missed 17 games the past two seasons, which likely played a role in the decision to draft Kendall Wright, another dynamic playmaker, in Round One. Electric after the catch, Wright, whose work ethic concerned some evaluators, stretches the field vertically and horizontally, with sudden stop-and-go quickness and short-area burst. His versatility and explosiveness give Chris Palmer a valuable mismatch weapon. Nate Washington set career highs in receptions (74), receiving yards (1,023) and TDs (seven) in Britt's absence. Washington cut down on his drops and blossomed into a leader and mentor for younger receivers Damian Williams and Lavelle Hawkins. They will have to fight for time with the return of Britt and the arrival of Wright. Jared Cook has all the tools to be one of the more dangerous pass-catching tight ends in the league, but he is still putting it all together. He has rare speed and leaping ability for a man of his stature, but he is still learning how to read coverages and run crisp routes. Craig Stevens is a terrific run blocker and above-average athlete. Rookie Taylor Thompson, who played defensive end in college, has a rare size-speed combination similar to Cook's, but he is extremely raw.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The offensive line is one of the better pass-protection units in the league, anchored by stalwart OTs Michael Roos and David Stewart. Where this group continously came up short last season was as run blockers, particularly in the middle. OLT Roos makes up for his short arms with his great understanding of angles and ability to handle speed. ORT Stewart is incredibly versatile because he is a very effective road grader, in addition to consistently keeping his QB clean. To fortify the interior, the Titans signed OLG Steve Hutchinson, who could wind up in Canton after his playing career is finished. Hutchinson, who turns 35 in November, is known for his sound technique, tenacity and great instincts. However, scouts say he spent too much time on the ground in Minnesota, and he has struggled to stay healthy. ORG Leroy Harris and C Eugene Amano both will be under the microscope this offseason. Harris has short arms and is not overly stout, which means he has to play in a confined area. Amano is an undersized but tough widebody who can work his way to the second level. C Kevin Matthews, the son of offensive line coach and Hall of Fame OG Bruce Matthews, OG Fernando Velasco and OT Mike Otto round out the unit as backups.

DEFENSE

Coordinator Jerry Gray installed a fast-flowing 4-3 scheme last season with primarily zone coverage on the back end. Gray disguised his pressure and coverages well but received mixed results by moving players around the field. The Titans tied for 18th in overall "D," and making more impact plays — Tennessee finished 31st in the NFL in sack percentage and struggled to get off the field on third downs — will be a major point of emphasis. Following the departure of longtime CB Cortland Finnegan, the Titans must find a new tone setter for the defense.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

After mustering only 28 sacks in 2011, Tennessee signed DRE Kamerion Wimbley

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@JAX.**	**BALT.**	**DEN.**	**@CLEV.**	**@PITT.**	**HOU.**	**IND.**	**CIN.**	**@CAR.**	**@ATL.**	**T.B.**	**@BUFF.**	**N.O.**	**@IND.**	**JAX.**	**@HOU.**	
Score	14-16	26-13	17-14	31-13	17-38	7-41	27-10	17-24	30-3	17-23	23-17	23-17	17-22	13-27	23-17	23-22	
Total net yards	292	432	333	332	306	148	311	328	383	298	352	317	373	388	407	361	5361
Rushing yards	43	74	38	112	66	53	96	78	172	41	202	187	59	66	65	86	1438
Passing yards	249	358	295	220	240	95	215	250	211	257	150	130	314	322	342	275	3923
Rushing plays	13	29	23	29	18	15	31	20	35	14	35	31	17	19	25	22	376
Sacks allowed	2	0	2	0	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	24
Had intercepted	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	14
Fumbles lost	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	8
Yards penalized	60	70	80	45	70	76	40	100	92	86	50	20	54	70	0	47	960
Punts	7	3	4	6	4	7	8	7	5	5	3	5	5	7	4	6	86
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	39:38	24:08	29:06	36:53	32:22	37:58	28:32	32:55	27:24	36:59	26:37	31:46	37:33	28:03	29:01	34:38	32:08
Total net yards	323	229	231	416	431	518	399	319	279	432	308	386	437	287	300	387	5682
Rushing yards	163	45	59	84	174	222	158	109	113	116	122	104	114	205	113	152	2053
Passing yards	160	184	172	332	257	296	241	210	166	316	186	282	323	82	187	235	3629
Rushing plays	47	17	23	22	28	47	26	30	19	36	25	23	26	34	28	30	461
Sacks allowed	2	3	1	4	1	0	2	1	5	0	2	1	2	0	1	3	28
Had intercepted	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	11
Fumbles lost	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	0	1	0	1	12
Yards penalized	39	44	15	40	51	68	66	87	99	55	30	15	95	25	28	55	812
Punts	5	5	5	4	2	2	7	7	8	2	5	4	5	7	9	6	83
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Hall											1-2-0	2-14-0			1-1-0	2-7-0	6-24-0
Harper	3-10-0			1-2-0		2-4-0	1-0-0							2-3-0	4-6-1	4-19-0	17-44-1
Hasselbeck	1-9-0		2-(-2)-0	1-5-0	1-3-0		1-(-1)-0	2-3-0	1-21-0	1-17-0	2-(-2)-0	1-(-1)-0		1-(-1)-0	5-2-0	1-(-1)-0	20-52-0
C. Johnson	9-24-0	24-53-0	13-21-0	23-101-0	14-51-1	10-18-0	14-34-0	14-64-0	27-130-1	12-13-0	23-190-0	23-153-2	11-23-0	15-55-0	15-56-0	15-61-0	262-1047-4
Locker										1-11-0			6-36-1	1-9-0			8-56-1
Ringer		5-21-1	6-(-6)-0	4-4-0	3-12-0	3-31-0	14-60-0	4-11-0	6-19-0		9-12-0	5-21-0					59-185-1
**PASSING ** **																	
Hasselbeck	21-34-1 263-2	30-42-1 358-1	27-36-0 311-2	10-20-1 220-3	29-49-1 262-1	14-30-2 104-1	23-33-0 224-1	24-41-0 272-2	15-27-1 219-1	13-25-1 124-0	19-34-2 160-1	16-25-0 140-0	5-7-0 44-0	27-40-2 223-0	24-40-2 350-1	22-35-0 297-2	319-518-14 3571-18
Locker				0-1-0 0-0		1-1-0 12-0				9-19-0 140-2			13-29-0 282-1	11-16-0 108-1			34-66-0 542-4
RECEIVING																	
Britt	5-136-2	9-135-1	3-18-0														17-289-3
Cook	1-7-0	2-37-0	2-12-0	2-93-1	4-59-0	2-22-1	2-40-0	4-47-0	1-18-0	5-51-0	3-38-0			9-103-0	8-169-1	4-63-0	49-759-3
Hall							2-13-0	1-9-0			1-10-0	2-12-0		2-(-2)-0		1-4-0	9-46-0
Harper	1-21-0													1-2-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	4-32-0
L. Hawkins		3-22-0	2-16-0	2-38-0	4-33-0	3-24-0	3-18-0	5-63-1	1-3-0	1-32-0	5-51-0	2-9-0	3-49-0	8-88-0	2-5-0	3-19-0	47-470-1
C. Johnson	6-25-0	3-12-0	4-54-0	2-11-0	3-14-0	6-27-0	3-17-0	4-46-0	4-44-0	3-15-0	1-3-0	1-4-0	5-43-0	8-54-0		4-49-0	57-418-0
Ringer		2-30-0	2-17-0		6-16-0	1-17-0	5-42-0	1-14-0	1-7-0	3-35-0	4-6-0	2-(-8)-0	1-11-0				28-187-0
Stevens	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-58-0	1-12-1		1-11-0		1-25-0					1-31-0	1-9-0	1-17-0		9-166-1
Washington	6-67-0	7-99-0	8-92-1	2-62-0	5-69-0	1-10-0	4-34-1	3-28-0	3-40-0	9-115-2	1-12-0	4-40-0	6-130-1	7-62-1	4-71-0	4-92-1	74-1023-7
D. Williams	1-5-0		1-19-0	1-4-1	6-66-1	1-5-0	4-60-0	4-34-1	5-107-1	1-16-0	3-33-1	4-62-0	2-62-0	2-15-0	8-83-0	2-21-0	45-592-5

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Kendall Wright	WR	Baylor	20
2	Zach Brown	WLB	North Carolina	52
3	Mike Martin	DT	Michigan	82
4	Coty Sensabaugh	CB	Clemson	115
5	Taylor Thompson	TE	SMU	145
6	Markelle Martin	FS	Oklahoma State	190
7	Scott Solomon	DE	Rice	211

K. WRIGHT

this offseason to generate more consistent pressure off the edge. Wimbley, 28, is a naturally athletic pass rusher who bends and uses his hands well and gets good acceleration off the edge. However, folks in Oakland have varying opinions on Wimbley, who played primarily outside linebacker with the Raiders. Some observers say Wimbley was miscast, and others say his production was too inconsistent. Opposite Wimbley is high-motor DLE Derrick Morgan, who possesses great size and length and stacks the point well. Morgan's development has been slowed by injuries, but he was playing his best football at the end of last season. Following a disappointing first year in Nashville by veteran space eater Shaun Smith, the Titans will give athletic fireplug Mike Martin every opportunity to become an inside force. The third-rounder has good movement skills for a big man and a great motor. The Titans would love nothing more than for Martin's rookie production to mirror that of Jurrell Casey and Karl Klug in 2011. The stout Casey has very good initial quickness and was the team's best run defender last season. Klug, an undersized, situational pass rusher, led the Titans in sacks (seven), getting the most out of his explosive hands, solid instincts and constantly revved motor. Backup DT Sen'Derrick Marks has been just a guy in his first three seasons. DE Dave Ball isn't overly powerful or explosive, but he is a solid locker-room presence who is productive. Malcolm Sheppard and Leger Douzable are solid, versatile rotational players. Seventh-rounder Scott Solomon brings strength and explosion to the DE stable.

LINEBACKERS

In only seven starts, MLB Colin McCarthy racked up a team-high eight tackles for loss, along with two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and an interception. An instinctive, sideline-to-sideline player, McCarthy plays fast and is a vocal leader who brings a much-needed playmaking dynamic to the defense. SLB Akeem Ayers led Titans LBs with 88 tackles, according to team stats, which is the second-highest total for a Titans rookie since 1999. The quick-footed, strong-tackling Ayers flashes playmaking ability, but the team wants to see him in the backfield more often this season. Pass-rush specialist coach Keith Millard will work closely with Ayers on developing more moves and a better knack for getting upfield. WLB Will Witherspoon is a smart, savvy veteran who always seems to be around the football. Witherspoon, who will be 32 this season, still has good speed and quickness, but he will be pushed by rookie Zach Brown, a first-round talent with elite speed and athleticism who slid in the draft because of questionable focus, work habits and makeup. Backups Patrick Bailey, Tim Shaw and Gerald McRath are key special-teamers.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Following the departure of Cortland Finnegan, CB Alterraun Verner joins Jason McCourty in the starting lineup. McCourty is coming off a terrific season, in which he led the team in passes defensed (13) and finished second in tackles (107). The Titans love his size and physicality — he is strong in run support and doesn't shy away from contact. Verner, who is two inches shorter than his counterpart, has better ball skills and quicker feet than McCourty and is also plenty physical and willing to stick his hat on the ballcarrier. SS Jordan Babineaux was very consistent in his first year with the club and, although he didn't make as many big plays as he did in

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	**18 BRITT**	13 Wright*	17 Williams	
OLT	**71 ROOS**	68 Stingily		
OLG	**73 HUTCHINSON**			
C	**54 AMANO**	60 Matthews		
ORG	**64 L. HARRIS**	61 Velasco	77 Durand	
ORT	**76 STEWART**	66 Otto		
TE	**89 COOK**	88 Stevens	84 Thompson*	
WR	**85 WASHINGTON**	87 L. Hawkins	83 Mariani	
QB	**8 HASSELBECK**	10 Locker	11 R. Smith	
RB	**28 C. JOHNSON**	21 Ringer	23 Harper	
FB	**44 Q. JOHNSON**			
DEFENSE				
DLE	**90 MORGAN**	96 Sheppard	90 Solomon*	
DT	**67 MI. MARTIN***	94 Marks	78 Douzable	
DT	**99 CASEY**	97 Klug	93 S. Smith	
DRE	**95 WIMBLEY**	98 Ball	75 Dawson	
SLB	**56 AYERS**	57 Bailey		
MLB	**52 McCARTHY**	59 Shaw	50 Malast	
WLB	**92 WITHERSPOON**	55 Brown*	51 McRath	
LCB	**30 McCOURTY**	29 Mouton	24 Sensabaugh*	
RCB	**20 VERNER**	37 Campbell	35 C. Hawkins	
SS	**26 BABINEAUX**	31 Ma. Martin*		
FS	**33 GRIFFIN**	38 Afalava	32 R. Johnson	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**6 KERN**			
PK	**2 BIRONAS**			
H	**6 KERN**			
PR	**83 MARIANI**			
KR	**83 MARIANI**			
LS	**47 INGRAM**			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Steve Brown, secondary assistant; Frank Bush, linebackers; Jonathan Gannon, defensive assistant/quality control; Jerry Gray, defensive coordinator; Nate Kaczor, asst. offensive line; Dowell Loggains, quarterbacks; Alan Lowry, special teams; Bruce Matthews, offensive line; Brett Maxie, secondary; Keith Millard, defensive assistant/pass-rush specialist; Mike Munchak, head coach; Chris Palmer, offensive coordinator; Chet Parlavecchio, special-teams assistant; Dave Ragone, wide receivers; Tracy Rocker, defensive line; Jim Skipper, running backs; Arthur Smith, offensive assistant/quality control; John Zernhelt, tight ends.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
38	Afalava, Al	S	5-11	212	4	Oregon State	0/0
81	Aguilar, Devin	WR	5-11	200	R	Washington	
54	Amano, Eugene	C-OG	6-3	300	9	Southeast Missouri St.	16/16
56	Ayers, Akeem	LB	6-3	254	2	UCLA	16/16
26	Babineaux, Jordan	S	6-0	210	9	Southern Arkansas	16/14
57	Bailey, Patrick	LB	6-4	235	5	Duke	15/0
98	Ball, Dave	DE	6-5	255	8	UCLA	14/8
46	Barden, Brandon	TE	6-4	251	R	Vanderbilt	
3	Batson, Will	P-PK	6-3	194	R	North Alabama	
72	Bias, George	OG	6-2	312	R	Stephen F. Austin	
2	Bironas, Rob	PK	6-0	210	8	Georgia Southern	16/0
48	Brinkley, Beau	TE	6-3	226	R	Missouri	
18	Britt, Kenny	WR	6-3	215	4	Rutgers	3/3
55	Brown, Zach	LB	6-1	242	R	North Carolina	
62	Burden, Chandler	OG	6-4	315	R	Kentucky	
37	Campbell, Tommie	CB	6-3	205	2	California (Pa.)	15/0
99	Casey, Jurrell	DT	6-1	300	2	USC	16/15
69	Clayton, Zach	DT	6-2	299	2	Auburn	3/0
89	Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	248	4	South Carolina	16/5
75	Dawson, Keyunta	DE	6-3	254	5	Texas Tech	2/0
82	Deadder, Chase	WR	6-4	224	R	Sacramento State	
	Diles, Zach	LB	6-2	245	5	Kansas State	11/0
72	Divens, Lamar	DT	6-3	343	2	Tennessee State	0/0
36	Donaldson, Herb	RB	5-11	221	1	Western Illinois	0/0
78	Douzable, Leger	DE	6-4	284	4	UCF	16/6
77	Durand, Ryan	OG	6-5	301	2	Syracuse	0/0
79	Egboh, Pannel	DE	6-6	287	1	Stanford	0/0
16	Evans, LaQuinton	WR	6-1	203	R	Southern	
80	Graham, Cameron	TE	6-3	244	1	Louisville	0/0
86	Graham, Daniel	TE	6-3	257	11	Colorado	16/7
33	Griffin, Michael	S	6-0	203	6	Texas	16/16
23	Harper, Jamie	RB	5-11	233	2	Clemson	13/0
62	Harris, DaJohn	DT	6-3	306	R	USC	
64	Harris, Leroy	OG-C	6-3	303	6	North Carolina State	16/16
8	Hasselbeck, Matt	QB	6-4	225	14	Boston College	16/16
35	Hawkins, Chris	CB	6-1	184	2	LSU	9/0
87	Hawkins, Lavelle	WR	5-11	194	5	California	16/2
73	Hutchinson, Steve	OG	6-5	313	12	Michigan	14/14
47	Ingram, Jake	LS	6-3	240	3	Hawaii	0/0
28	Johnson, Chris	RB	5-11	191	5	East Carolina	16/16
44	Johnson, Quinn	FB	6-1	263	4	LSU	4/1
32	Johnson, Robert	S	6-2	206	2	Utah	3/0
6	Kern, Brett	P	6-2	217	5	Toledo	16/0
19	Kirkendoll, James	WR	5-10	175	1	Texas	0/0
97	Klug, Karl	DT	6-3	275	2	Iowa	16/1
70	Kropog, Troy	OG-OT	6-6	308	3	Tulane	0/0
10	Locker, Jake	QB	6-3	234	2	Washington	5/0
50	Malast, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	1	Rutgers	3/0
83	Mariani, Marc	WR	6-1	190	3	Montana	16/0
94	Marks, Sen'Derrick	DT	6-2	294	4	Auburn	16/9
31	Martin, Markelle	S	6-1	207	R	Oklahoma State	
67	Martin, Mike	DT	6-1	306	R	Michigan	
60	Matthews, Kevin	C	6-3	302	2	Texas A&M	0/0
52	McCarthy, Colin	LB	6-1	238	2	Miami (Fla.)	13/7
30	McCourty, Jason	CB	6-0	188	4	Rutgers	15/15
51	McRath, Gerald	LB	6-3	228	4	Southern Mississippi	12/0
	Mooney, Colin	FB	5-10	247	1	Army	0/0
91	Morgan, Derrick	DE	6-3	278	3	Georgia Tech	15/10
29	Mouton, Ryan	CB	5-9	184	4	Hawaii	0/0
15	Murdock, O.J.	WR	5-11	200	2	Fort Hays State (Kan.)	0/0
66	Otto, Mike	OT	6-5	310	5	Purdue	15/1
14	Preston, Michael	WR	6-5	206	1	Heidelberg (Ohio)	0/0
39	Reynaud, Darius	RB	5-9	201	4	West Virginia	0/0
21	Ringer, Javon	RB	5-9	207	4	Michigan State	12/0
71	Roos, Michael	OT	6-7	320	8	Eastern Washington	16/16
41	Scott, Christian	S	5-11	220	R	Texas	
24	Sensabaugh, Coty	CB	5-11	189	R	Clemson	
59	Shaw, Tim	LB	6-1	236	5	Penn State	16/0
96	Sheppard, Malcolm	DL	6-2	289	3	Arkansas	13/1
11	Smith, Rusty	QB	6-5	226	3	Florida Atlantic	0/0
93	Smith, Shaun	DT	6-2	325	9	South Carolina	15/6
90	Solomon, Scott	DE	6-3	262	R	Rice	
5	Stephens, Nick	QB	6-3	230	R	Tarleton State (Texas)	
88	Stevens, Craig	TE	6-3	268	5	California	15/11
76	Stewart, David	OT	6-7	315	8	Mississippi State	15/15
68	Stingily, Byron	OT	6-5	313	2	Louisville	0/0
84	Thompson, Taylor	TE	6-6	287	R	SMU	
61	Velasco, Fernando	OG-C	6-4	312	3	Georgia	16/0
20	Verner, Alterraun	CB	5-10	187	3	UCLA	16/3
53	Vlachos, William	C	6-0	321	R	Alabama	
85	Washington, Nate	WR	6-1	177	8	Tiffin (Ohio)	16/15
46	Watkins, Alex	LB	6-2	237	R	Alabama	
22	Wheatley, Terrence	CB	5-9	185	3	Colorado	0/0
17	Williams, Damian	WR	6-1	199	3	USC	15/13
95	Wimbley, Kamerion	DE	6-4	255	7	Florida State	16/16
92	Witherspoon, Will	LB	6-1	240	11	Georgia	16/14
12	Woods, D.J.	WR	5-11	180	R	Cincinnati	
13	Wright, Kendall	WR	5-10	196	R	Baylor	

Seattle, he was a sound tackler and smart player who was in the right place more often than not. FS Michael Griffin, whom the club placed the franchise tag on this offseason, was inconsistent. He continues to get caught between playing the ball and going for the tackle, but the Titans know what a terrific athlete he is and how well he can play when he's right. Versatile but injury-prone Ryan Mouton is the current favorite to win the nickel back job. However, he will have competition from the athletic but undisciplined Tommie Campbell; Chris Hawkins, who earned starting experience late last season; and rookie Coty Sensabaugh. Sensabaugh has the short-area quickness desired for Tennessee's zone scheme. Sixth-round FS Markelle Martin, a big hitter who fell in the draft because of concerns about a knee injury, and Al Afalava round out the unit.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Rob Bironas remains one of the better kickers in the game. He is blessed with a powerful leg and has been remarkably consistent. P Brett Kern was sixth in the league in punts downed inside the 20, with 31. Dangerous return specialist Marc Mariani followed up his Pro Bowl rookie season with another stellar campaign. Tennessee finished third in kickoff-return differential and fifth in punt-return differential, but the unit was called for too many penalties late in the season.

SUMMARY

Matt Hasselbeck was very good for the Titans in 2011, but it's only a matter of time before the club hands the keys to Jake Locker, who possesses far greater upside. If Locker isn't ready, the Titans think they can win with Hasselbeck, assuming they get much greater contributions in the running game and more splash plays from the defense. Tennessee nearly snuck into the playoffs in Mike Munchak's first season as a head coach, and it is reasonable to expect the young club to take another step in 2012 with a full offseason to grow together. But a lot of things will have to fall just right for the Titans to close the gap between the more talented Texans in the AFC South.

3 JACKSONVILLE Jaguars

2012 PREDICTION: 5-11 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 5-11 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. MULARKEY

HEAD COACH: Mike Mularkey
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bob Bratkowski
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mel Tucker
OWNER: Shahid Khan
STADIUM: Jacksonville Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 67,164
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.jaguars.com

While there was little reason to get excited about the Jaguars on the field last season, save for RB Maurice Jones-Drew steamrolling his way to the NFL rushing title and the team making the NFL's second-biggest defensive improvement from 2010 to '11, the club has reason for optimism as it heads into this season with a fresh start under new leadership.

Head coach Jack Del Rio was ousted after a 3-8 start, and interim coach Mel Tucker was replaced in the offseason by Mike Mularkey, who joins the Jaguars after overseeing the development of Falcons QB Matt Ryan in Atlanta. Mularkey assembled an experienced staff, with the focal point of bringing in guys who are best-suited to have a strong hand in the growth of QB Blaine Gabbert, who would just as soon forget a rookie season that provided few real glimmers of hope.

But the arrival of Mularkey and a new staff was hardly the biggest change. After 17 seasons in control, Wayne Weaver sold the franchise to Shahid Khan, the vibrant, Pakistani-born businessman who made his fortune in auto parts manufacturing. Khan signed off on a three-year contract extension for GM Gene Smith, but the new owner clearly expects winning — on the field and at the ticket booth — to start immediately.

Smith is entering Year Four of his rebuilding project, and although his future with the club is directly tied to Gabbert's, the clock is ticking. One thing is clear after all of the recent turnover in North Florida: The status quo no longer will be tolerated.

HARRY SCULL JR.
MAURICE JONES-DREW

OFFENSE

New play-caller Bob Bratkowski's offense won't look all that much different from that of his predecessor, Dirk Koetter. Bratkowski wants to wear defenses down with a smashmouth rushing attack that opens up things over the top in the passing game. Of course, running the football wasn't an issue for the Jaguars last season; it is the NFL's worst passing offense in 2011 that needs fixing. Thus, the onus will be on the coaches to develop QB Blaine Gabbert to provide more balance for an offense that was far too one-dimensional a season ago.

QUARTERBACKS

Most scouts will agree that an adjustment period was to be expected from Blaine Gabbert. After all, he came from a spread offense and was thrown into the fire too quickly without proper coaching and weapons after a lockout-shortened offseason. But it was the rarity of flashes during his rookie season that is concerning. At 6-5, 233 pounds, with a rocket for an arm and very good athleticism and intelligence, Gabbert looks every bit the part of an NFL signalcaller. His biggest issue — and the same can be said for backup Chad Henne — is a lack of instincts in the pocket. Gabbert, whose 65.4 passer rating was the NFL's worst among qualifiers, often felt pressure that didn't exist. This caused him to often throw off his back foot or chuck and duck before the pocket materialized. A rare positive for Gabbert

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
WR Lee Evans, QB Chad Henne, WR Laurent Robinson, CB Aaron Ross.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
CB Drew Coleman, WR Kassim Osgood.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Maurice Jones-Drew

DEFENSIVE MVP
MLB Paul Posluszny

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
DT Tyson Alualu

POSITION BATTLE
CB: Rashean Mathis vs. Aaron Ross

M. JONES-DREW P. POSLUSZNY

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C	A	B-	C	B	B+	B-	B

in his rookie season was that he protected the ball well, tossing 11 interceptions in 413 attempts. Henne, the ex-Dolphin who was brought in to push Gabbert, isn't as athletic as Gabbert, but he is tougher, more experienced (31 career NFL starts) and also has plenty of arm talent.

RUNNING BACKS

Coming off his finest season, in which he led the NFL in rushing yards and attempts by a considerable margin despite consistently seeing at least one extra defender in the box, RB Maurice Jones-Drew continues to do it all for the Jaguars. MJD accounted for a league-leading 47.7 percent of the Jacksonville offense in 2011 (a franchise record). He is a true bell-cow back (rare in today's NFL) who punishes defenses between the tackles and has that extra gear to pull away in the open field. The diminutive Jones-Drew is tough to find behind the Jacksonville wall and even tougher to tackle because of his amazing strength, balance and low center of gravity. What's more, MJD has terrific hands and is an accomplished blocker and route runner. Backup Rashad Jennings missed the 2011 campaign with a knee injury, but he provides a solid complement to Jones-Drew. Jennings brings more size and a downhill running style to the Jacksonville backfield. He is strong and competitive and sees the cutback lanes. FB Greg Jones paves the way for the backs. He is very powerful and willing to face up defenders in the hole.

RECEIVERS

One of the weakest groups in the NFL in 2011 underwent a total makeover this offseason. The Jaguars traded up to draft the only two-time Biletnikoff Award winner in NCAA history, Justin Blackmon. The big, strong wideout, whose prolific numbers as a junior at Oklahoma State (122-1,522-18) bested the entire 2011 Jacksonville WR group (121-1,359-8), has the competitiveness, downfield playmaking ability and receiving instincts to be the best Jaguars pass catcher since Jimmy Smith. Free-agent acquisition Laurent Robinson, a rangy, natural athlete with vertical speed, set career highs across the board in Dallas last season, showing a knack for finding paydirt (11 TDs). The brittle Robinson has yet to play 16 games in his first five NFL seasons, however. Short but well-proportioned Mike Thomas is nifty in space and unfazed working in traffic, but his effort late last season left a lot to be desired. Veteran Lee Evans brings leadership and home-run potential to the group if he can stay healthy. The jump from Mount Union College to the NFL proved to be a difficult one for shifty and soft-handed Cecil Shorts. Competition for a roster spot will be fierce among the talented but underachieving duo of Brian Robiskie and Taylor Price. After cashing in on a new deal last offseason, TE Marcedes Lewis was a monster disappointment. He failed to find the endzone after registering 10 TDs in 2010. Lewis is the total package, with great size and seam-stretching ability, but he didn't do Blaine Gabbert any favors last season. Lewis remains a major asset as a run blocker, however, and the new staff will work hard to reassert him in the passing game. Athletic backup Zach Miller has been unable to stay on the field and is coming off shoulder surgery.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

OLT Eugene Monroe started to fullfill expectations in '12. He alarmed the coaching staff by reporting to camp much lighter, but he held up well throughout the season, particularly in the run game. Monroe has all the physical tools to become an elite blind-side protector, including quick feet and great length and flexibility. For a second consecutive year, injuries derailed ORT Eben Britton's campaign. This time it was a herniated disc that cost Britton 12 games (he missed nine games with a torn labrum in 2010). Nevertheless, the tenacious and versatile Britton, who kicked inside to left guard to replace struggling rookie Will Rackley early in the season, is penciled in at right tackle. Last season, C Brad Meester broke the franchise record for games played with 177. At the age of 35, he continues to make all the calls and uses his strong hands and good lower-body strength to get push in the run game. Rackley took his lumps while starting 14 games as a rookie (seven penalties, seven sacks allowed, according to STATS LLC), but scouts say his athleticism and physicality will serve him well. ORG Uche Nwaneri is an integral part of the team's success on the ground. He is a big, strong road grader with active hands who played some of his best football last season after improving his technique. Swing OT Guy Whimper was a valuable asset last season given Britton's poor health. Veteran OG Jason Spitz and C John Estes add depth.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Houston	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	Cincinnati	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 7	Chicago	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 14	BYE	
Oct. 21	at Oakland	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	Indianapolis	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	NY Jets	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	New England	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Tennessee	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Jacksonville

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Tennessee	(+1)	16-14
Sept. 18	At New York Jets	(+9)	3-32
Sept. 25	At Carolina	(+3.5)	10-16
Oct. 2	New Orleans	(+8.5)	10-23
Oct. 9	Cincinnati	(+2.5)	20-30
Oct. 16	At Pittsburgh	(+12.5)	13-17
Oct. 24	Baltimore	(+10)	12-7
Oct. 30	At Houston	(+10)	14-24
Nov. 6	BYE		
Nov. 13	At Indianapolis	(-3)	17-3
Nov. 20	At Cleveland	(+1.5)	10-14
Nov. 27	Houston	(+6.5)	13-20
Dec. 5	San Diego	(+3)	14-38
Dec. 11	Tampa Bay	(+3)	41-14
Dec. 15	At Atlanta	(+13.5)	14-41
Dec. 24	At Tennessee	(+8)	17-23
Jan. 1	Indianapolis	(-3)	19-13

DEFENSE

With coordinator Mel Tucker calling the plays for the first time, the Jaguars' "D" went from the NFL's 28th-ranked unit in 2010 to sixth overall last season. Tucker runs a fast-flowing 4-3 scheme and ratcheted up the aggressiveness by playing a lot more man coverage with his corners before injuries took their toll late in the season. Last offseason, GM Gene Smith turned weaknesses into strengths by bolstering the LB and safety groups. If rookie DE Andre Branch can be an impact pass rusher, he could be the missing piece for the unit.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

When healthy, Tyson Alualu and Terrance Knighton

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**TEN.**	**@N.Y.J.**	**@CAR.**	**N.O.**	**CIN.**	**@PITT.**	**BALT.**	**@HOU.**	**@IND.**	**@CLEV.**	**HOU.**	**S.D.**	**T.B.**	**@ATL.**	**@TEN.**	**IND.**	
Score	16-14	3-32	10-16	10-23	20-30	13-17	12-7	14-24	17-3	10-14	13-20	14-38	41-14	14-41	17-23	19-13	
Total net yards	323	203	257	274	296	209	205	174	251	303	255	306	325	207	300	261	4149
Rushing yards	163	112	128	104	96	133	132	84	141	108	105	129	116	116	113	190	1970
Passing yards	160	91	129	170	200	76	73	90	110	195	150	177	209	91	187	71	2179
Rushing plays	47	27	34	17	27	30	42	25	41	29	24	31	33	19	28	35	489
Sacks allowed	2	2	2	3	3	5	4	1	2	1	7	2	1	5	1	3	44
Had intercepted	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	15
Fumbles lost	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	8
Yards penalized	39	50	60	15	15	22	90	39	55	81	30	26	80	40	28	10	680
Punts	5	5	6	4	7	7	7	8	6	5	9	5	7	7	9	2	99
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	20:22	33:23	29:34	37:05	32:33	31:13	23:45	35:19	24:39	29:07	28:21	28:17	27:11	38:31	30:59	29:12	29:58
Total net yards	292	283	265	503	239	370	146	358	212	334	215	433	280	373	407	298	5008
Rushing yards	43	101	107	177	77	185	34	156	84	148	88	139	110	97	65	56	1667
Passing yards	249	182	158	326	162	185	112	202	128	186	127	294	170	276	342	242	3341
Rushing plays	13	32	28	34	31	32	12	39	23	28	31	26	24	35	25	22	435
Sacks allowed	2	1	0	3	2	3	3	2	5	2	0	0	3	1	1	3	31
Had intercepted	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	17
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	4	0	1	1	11
Yards penalized	60	60	69	50	33	65	85	60	40	70	80	55	97	31	0	40	895
Punts	7	5	8	1	7	6	9	6	6	3	10	4	5	5	4	3	89

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING																	
Gabbert		1-1-0	4-2-0	2-14-0	5-11-0	3-16-0	5-(-1)-0	4-14-0	6-8-0	2-10-0	1-1-0	6-19-0	4-(-3)-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	3-(-3)-0	48-98-0
D. Harris												2-2-0	1-24-0	1-(-1)-0	2-5-0	3-12-0	9-42-0
Jones-Drew	24-97-1	18-88-0	24-122-0	11-84-0	19-85-1	22-96-0	30-105-0	18-63-1	25-114-1	21-87-1	18-99-0	20-97-0	27-85-2	17-112-0	24-103-1	25-169-0	343-1606-8
Karim	14-33-0	6-15-0	5-4-0	4-6-0	2-4-0	5-21-0	7-28-0	3-7-0	9-7-0	4-1-0	2-(-2)-0					2-6-0	63-130-0
**PASSING ** **																	
Gabbert		5-6-0 52-0	12-21-1 139-1	16-42-1 196-1	15-28-0 221-1	12-26-0 109-1	9-20-0 93-0	10-30-2 97-1	14-21-1 118-1	22-41-0 210-0	13-29-1 136-0	19-33-1 195-2	19-33-2 217-2	12-22-1 141-1	21-42-1 198-0	11-19-0 92-1	210-413-11 2214-12
McCown	17-24-0 175-0	6-19-4 59-0						0-2-0 0-0			7-11-0 62-0						30-56-4 296-0
RECEIVING																	
Cloherty														1-21-0	2-33-0	1-3-0	4-57-0
Dillard		1-25-0		2-16-0	1-3-0	1-7-0		1-12-0	2-30-1	3-29-0	3-30-0	2-14-0	5-45-0	2-12-0	5-61-0	1-8-0	29-292-1
J. Hill	4-53-0		1-5-0	2-34-0	5-118-1	2-29-1	4-62-0	1-5-1		3-49-0	3-12-0						25-367-3
Jones-Drew		3-19-0	3-45-0	1-3-0		2-8-0	2-(-1)-0	1-11-0	3-23-0	4-31-0	4-67-0	6-91-1	6-51-2	1-1-0	6-21-0	1-4-0	43-374-3
Karim	3-39-0	1-10-0	2-19-0		3-27-0				3-25-0		2-0-0						14-120-0
Lewis	2-28-0		2-15-0	3-38-0	1-6-0	2-29-0	1-13-0	4-45-0	1-(-4)-0	7-64-0	4-47-0	3-27-0	2-77-0	3-30-0	1-12-0	3-33-0	39-460-0
Miller		3-28-0		1-14-1													4-42-1
Osgood													3-23-0			2-19-0	5-42-0
Potter									1-4-0			3-24-0			1-22-0		5-50-0
Shorts											1-25-0	1-5-1					2-30-1
M. Thomas	8-55-0	3-29-0	4-55-1	5-73-0	3-53-0	4-36-0	1-8-0	3-24-0	1-1-0	3-23-0	2-11-0	2-21-0	1-2-0		3-26-0	1-(-2)-0	44-415-1
West				1-16-0					3-39-0	2-14-0			2-19-0	3-38-1	1-14-0	1-23-1	13-163-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Justin Blackmon	WR	Oklahoma State	5
2	Andre Branch	DE	Clemson	38
3	Bryan Anger	P	California	70
5	Brandon Marshall	OLB	Nevada	142
6	Mike Harris	CB	Florida State	176
7	Jeris Pendleton	NT	Ashland	228

J. BLACKMON

give the Jaguars one of the league's better DT pairings. Unfortunately, that rarely has been the case. Alualu dealt with a nagging knee injury throughout the 2011 campaign but still started all 16 games for the second year in a row. He has a terrific blend of strength and quickness to collapse the pocket. Knighton sustained an eye injury in a nightclub altercation that required surgery and will limit him from participating until training camp — at the earliest. Because he won't be working out with the team, Knighton, who has struggled with his weight and is looking for a new contract, will have to keep a close eye on his nutrition. On the field, he can be an elite anchor. He has an incredibly stout base to clog the middle and surprisingly nimble feet for a man of his size. Late-blooming DLE Jeremy Mincey led the Jaguars in sacks (eight), adding four forced fumbles. Mincey doesn't have any extraordinary skills, but he gets consistent edge pressure by outworking the opposition. Opposite Mincey, rookie DRE Andre Branch is a sudden and disruptive force who can bend the edge and close on the QB. Branch has long arms and quick hands, but he lacks great instincts. DRE Aaron Kampman is a leader in the locker room, but continuing knee issues limited him to three games in '11, and he could face an uphill battle to earn a spot given his inflated salary. Backup DT D'Anthony Smith, a 2010 third-round pick with good versatility and movement skills; veteran C.J. Mosley, who made the most of his chances last season; and 28-year-old rookie Jeris Pendleton will spell the starters. DEs Austen Lane and John Chick are rotational guys.

LINEBACKERS

MLB Paul Posluszny was a huge hit in his first year in Jacksonville. "Poz" is a rangy and highly instinctive 'backer who is constantly around the ball, explodes through ballcarriers and always stays on the field. He did a terrific job serving as the QB of the defense and bringing added leadership to the unit. He is limited in coverage, however, and his injury track record caught up to him in the '11 finale, when he tore the labrum in his left shoulder. He had offseason surgery and is expected to be out until training camp. Rock-solid SLB Daryl Smith has started 122 of 124 games in his career and is the Jaguars' all-time leading tackler (1,084). Smith, 30, is an active, physical player who gets downhill quickly and takes on and discards blocks well. He is solid in coverage, though he lacks the speed to turn and run with faster receivers. WLB Clint Session was lost for the season in Week 11 after suffering multiple concussions. Session is undersized, yet very physical, with good lateral quickness and short-area burst to square up and deliver jarring blows. Russell Allen filled in admirably for Session and continues to be a very valuable asset to Jacksonville because of his versatility and sound play. Rookie Brandon Marshall was a four-year starter in college and offers length, versatility and special-teams experience.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

LCB Rashean Mathis and RCB Derek Cox were both enjoying strong seasons before injuries took their toll. A torn ACL cost Mathis the final six games and likely a long-term deal with the Jaguars. Instead, Mathis, who will be 32 years old this season, signed a one-year "show me" contract, and he will compete with free-agent acquisition Aaron Ross for the starting job. Mathis is best playing in tight man coverage, as he has the size to jam receivers and the smooth hips and quick feet to turn and run. He is aggressive with the ball in the air but not a great tackler. Cox's greatest asset is his outstanding length and

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE		
WR	81 L. ROBINSON	80 Thomas	18 Robiskie
OLT	75 MONROE	68 Whimper	76 Baldridge
OLG	65 RACKLEY		
C	63 MEESTER	62 Estes	
ORG	77 NWANERI	67 Spitz	
ORT	73 BRITTON	68 Whimper	78 Bradfield
TE	89 LEWIS	86 Miller	88 Potter
WR	14 BLACKMON*	83 Evans	84 Shorts
QB	11 GABBERT	7 Henne	Palmer
RB	32 JONES-DREW	23 Jennings	24 Owens
FB	33 JONES	44 Bolen	
	DEFENSE		
DLE	94 MINCEY	92 Lane	
DT	93 ALUALU	99 Mosley	98 Pendleton*
DT	96 KNIGHTON	95 D'An. Smith	79 Irvin
DRE	90 BRANCH*	74 Kampman	97 Chick
SLB	52 DA. SMITH	50 Allen	
MLB	51 POSLUSZNY		
WLB	55 SESSION	53 Marshall*	56 Bosworth
LCB	27 MATHIS	20 Ross	34 M. Harris*
RCB	21 COX	29 Middleton	22 Rutland
SS	26 LANDRY	36 Greene	
FS	25 LOWERY	42 Prosinski	
	SPECIALISTS		
P	19 ANGER*		
PK	10 SCOBEE		
H	19 ANGER*		
PR	80 THOMAS	84 Shorts	
KR	84 SHORTS		
LS	48 CAIN		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Craig Aukerman, asst. special teams; Brandon Blaney, defensive assistant; John Bonamego, special-teams coordinator; Bob Bratkowski, offensive coordinator; Sylvester Croom, running backs; Joe Cullen, defensive line; Mark Duffner, linebackers; Andy Heck, offensive line; Josh Hingst, asst. strength and conditioning; Bobby Johnson, tight ends; Marlon McCree, asst. secondary; Mike Mularkey, head coach; Patrick Mularkey, strength assistant; Tom Myslinski, strength and conditioning; Tony Oden, secondary; Greg Olson, quarterbacks/asst. head coach; Ron Prince, asst. offensive line; Cedric Scott, strength assistant; Charlie Skalaski, offensive assistant; Paul Spicer, asst. defensive line; Jerry Sullivan, wide receivers; Mel Tucker, defensive coordinator/asst. head coach.

instincts. He recognizes routes, has natural cover skills and is an aggressive tackler. Cox's confidence can sometimes wane, however, and durability is a concern — he has missed 13 games the past two seasons. Ross, an ex-Giant, brings great versatility and big-game experience to the Jaguars' CB stable. After being one of the worst safety groups in the NFL two seasons ago, the Jaguars were stabilized by the consistent and impressive play of SS Dawan Landry and FS Dwight Lowery. Landry is a smart, tough, instinctive player. Lowery, who is very disciplined and aware, transitioned seamlessly from corner to safety. Rookie CB Mike Harris plays bigger than his size and will compete with Will Middleton for time. Safeties Chris Prosinski and Courtney Greene round out the unit.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Strong-legged PK Josh Scobee is coming off his finest season. He drilled 23-of-25 field-goal attempts (92 percent), the second-highest percentage in franchise history, in 2011. The Jaguars envision P Bryan Anger as a field-position weapon after turning heads by drafting him in Round Three. Jacksonville's coverage and return teams took a step back last season. PR Mike Thomas and KR Cecil Shorts are home-run threats, but neither reached the endzone in 2011.

SUMMARY

Mike Mularkey inherits a talented "D" coming off a breakthrough season and the NFL's leading rusher. He also inherits the league's most anemic passing game and QB Blaine Gabbert, who now has a vastly improved supporting cast. New owner Shahid Khan inherits GM Gene Smith, whose rebuilding project is not where it should be entering Year Four, and a gigantic stadium with too many empty seats. Success in the NFL is generally judged by wins and losses, but Mularkey and Co. will receive high marks if Gabbert develops into the long-term QB solution, which would alleviate the pressure on Smith and Khan and likely give Jaguars fans more reason to buy tickets.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
76	Adams, Kendrick	DE	6-5	244	R	LSU	
50	Allen, Russell	LB	6-3	234	4	San Diego State	16/6
93	Alualu, Tyson	DT	6-3	304	3	California	16/16
19	Anger, Bryan	P	6-4	208	R	California	
76	Baldridge, Daniel	OT	6-8	311	1	Marshall	0/0
35	Banyard, Joe	RB	5-11	213	R	Texas-El Paso	
72	Barbiasz, Lee	OT	6-7	310	R	Northern Colorado	
14	Blackmon, Justin	WR	6-1	215	R	Oklahoma State	
38	Blake, Antwon	CB	5-9	198	R	Texas-El Paso	
44	Bolen, Brock	FB-RB	6-0	233	4	Louisville	13/0
56	Bosworth, Kyle	LB	6-1	236	3	UCLA	9/0
78	Bradfield, Cameron	OT	6-4	302	2	Grand Valley State	10/2
90	Branch, Andre	DE	6-5	258	R	Clemson	
60	Brewster, Mike	C	6-4	314	R	Ohio State	
	Brown, Jeremiah	DB	6-0	205	R	Wagner	
	Brown, Mike	WR	5-11	202	R	Liberty	
73	Britton, Eben	OT	6-6	310	4	Arizona	4/3
48	Cain, Jeremy	LS	6-1	245	7	Massachusetts	16/0
97	Chick, John	DE	6-3	248	2	Utah State	11/0
83	Cloherty, Colin	TE	6-2	245	1	Brown	4/1
21	Cox, Derek	CB	6-1	190	4	William & Mary	6/6
49	Davis, Ryan	DE	6-2	261	R	Bethune-Cookman	
16	Dennard, Antonio	CB	5-11	185	R	Langston (Okla.)	
6	Elliott, Kevin	WR	6-3	213	R	Florida A&M	
62	Estes, John	C	6-2	302	3	Hawaii	2/0
83	Evans, Lee	WR	5-10	197	9	Wisconsin	9/2
	Forcier, Chris	WR	6-3	213	R	Furman	
11	Gabbert, Blaine	QB	6-5	233	2	Missouri	15/14
36	Greene, Courtney	S	6-0	212	4	Rutgers	7/2
61	Hall Jr., D.J.	OG	6-1	319	R	Texas State	
40	Harris, DuJuan	RB	5-7	197	2	Troy	5/0
34	Harris, Mike	CB	5-10	184	R	Florida State	
14	Heath, T.J.	CB	6-0	179	2	Jacksonville State (Ala.)	5/0
7	Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	230	4	Michigan	4/4
79	Irvin, Corvey	DT	6-3	302	2	Georgia	4/0
6	Issac, Rod	DB	5-11	196	2	Middle Tennessee	3/0
23	Jennings, Rashad	RB	6-1	228	4	Liberty	0/0
43	Johnson, Dontrel	CB	5-9	176	R	Murray State	
32	Jones-Drew, Maurice	RB	5-7	208	6	UCLA	16/16
33	Jones, Greg	FB	6-1	254	8	Florida State	16/9
74	Kampman, Aaron	DE	6-4	260	11	Iowa	3/0
96	Knighton, Terrance	DT	6-3	336	4	Temple	13/13
26	Landry, Dawan	S	6-0	210	7	Georgia Tech	16/16
92	Lane, Austen	DE	6-5	274	3	Murray State	6/1
89	Lewis, Marcedes	TE	6-6	275	7	UCLA	15/15
25	Lowery, Dwight	DB	5-11	198	5	San Jose State	13/11
53	Marshall, Brandon	LB	6-2	243	R	Nevada	
27	Mathis, Rashean	CB	6-1	193	10	Bethune-Cookman	9/9
63	Meester, Brad	C	6-3	302	13	Northern Iowa	16/16
29	Middleton, William	CB	5-11	194	4	Furman	11/6
86	Miller, Zach	TE	6-4	245	4	Nebraska-Omaha	4/0
94	Mincey, Jeremy	DE	6-3	270	5	Florida	16/16
75	Monroe, Eugene	OT	6-5	308	4	Virginia	15/14
98	Morgan, Aaron	DE	6-4	238	3	Louisiana-Monroe	0/0
99	Mosley, C.J.	DT	6-3	305	8	Missouri	15/3
39	Murphy, Richard	RB	6-1	208	R	LSU	
78	Nowak, Drew	DT	6-3	292	R	Western Michigan	
77	Nwaneri, Uche	OG-C	6-3	318	6	Purdue	16/16
24	Owens, Montell	RB	5-10	225	7	Maine	13/0
	Palmer, Jordan	QB	6-5	232	5	Texas-El Paso	0/0
33	Parmele, Jalen	RB	5-11	222	4	Toledo	0/0
98	Pendleton, Jeris	DT	6-2	328	R	Ashland (Ohio)	
51	Posluszny, Paul	LB	6-1	238	6	Penn State	16/16
88	Potter, Zach	TE	6-7	280	3	Nebraska	15/7
15	Price, Taylor	WR	6-0	205	3	Ohio	2/0
42	Prosinski, Chris	S	6-1	201	2	Wyoming	13/1
65	Rackley, Will	OG-C	6-3	309	2	Lehigh	15/14
	Ray, Odrick	DT	6-4	275	1	Tulsa	0/0
	Richard, Donovan	OLB	6-0	214	R	South Carolina State	
81	Robinson, Laurent	WR	6-2	194	6	Illinois State	14/4
70	Robinson, William	OT	6-5	297	3	San Diego State	0/0
18	Robiskie, Brian	WR	6-3	209	4	Ohio State	6/2
20	Ross, Aaron	CB	6-0	197	6	Texas	16/15
22	Rutland, Kevin	CB	6-0	188	2	Missouri	14/4
59	Schaffer, J.K.	LB	6-0	232	R	Cincinnati	
10	Scobee, Josh	PK	6-1	210	9	Louisiana Tech	16/0
91	Selvie, George	DE	6-4	251	3	South Florida	7/0
55	Session, Clint	LB	6-0	235	6	Pittsburgh	9/6
84	Shorts III, Cecil	WR-RS	6-0	193	2	Mount Union	10/0
95	Smith, D'Anthony	DT	6-2	298	3	Louisiana Tech	0/0
52	Smith, Daryl	LB	6-2	249	9	Georgia Tech	16/16
67	Spitz, Jason	OG-C	6-3	305	7	Louisville	10/0
57	Stanford, Julian	LB	6-1	229	R	Wagner (N.Y.)	
	Tahi, Naufahu	FB	6-0	254	7	BYU	0/0
80	Thomas, Mike	WR	5-8	198	4	Arizona	15/13
37	Trent, Morgan	CB	6-1	193	4	Michigan	12/2
47	Veldman, Matt	TE	6-7	256	R	North Dakota State	
17	West, Chastin	WR	6-1	214	2	Fresno State	12/1
68	Whimper, Guy	OT	6-5	302	7	East Carolina	15/15
31	Youboty, Ashton	CB	5-11	189	7	Ohio State	6/5

4 INDIANAPOLIS Colts

2012 PREDICTION: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 2-14 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

C. PAGANO

HEAD COACH: Chuck Pagano
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bruce Arians
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Manusky
OWNER: Jim Irsay
STADIUM: Lucas Oil Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 63,000
PLAYING SURFACE: FieldTurf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.colts.com

Few falls from grace in recent NFL history have been more abrupt and stunning than the collapse of the 2011 Colts.

With QB Peyton Manning sidelined with a neck injury, Indianapolis went from vying to become the first team ever to make its 10th consecutive postseason appearance to the worst team in football.

Suddenly in position to draft a once-in-a-generation quarterback to replace Manning, and with a roster in need of nearly a complete overhaul, owner Jim Irsay gutted the organization. He fired vice chairman Bill Polian and GM Chris Polian, hiring energetic up-and-comer Ryan Grigson as general manager. Head coach Jim Caldwell was next out the door, replaced by former Ravens defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano.

And that was just the beginning.

On March 8, less than one year after signing a deal to finish his career as a Colt, QB Peyton Manning was released. Irsay made the move to avoid paying Manning a $28 million roster bonus and to hand the keys to top overall pick Andrew Luck, the silver lining in one of the worst seasons in franchise history.

Luck, Grigson and Pagano, all of whom are brand-new to their positions, now face the unenviable task of replacing the league's only four-time MVP, the architect of one of the great dynasties in NFL history and a head coach who led his team to a Super Bowl appearance. The monster is starting to be built, but growing pains are likely in store.

The good news is that luck is on the Colts' side.

SPORTPICS
REGGIE WAYNE

OFFENSE

Although Chuck Pagano wants to run the football, the hiring of coordinator Bruce Arians and the arrival of Andrew Luck suggest the Colts will remain a club that airs it out frequently. However, there is likely to be a departure from the Peyton Manning-led Colts, who relied heavily on precision-based passing. Arians' calling card, on the other hand, is a big-strike, vertical attack. The Colts will also swap their old zone-based blocking scheme for a man-power philosophy.

QUARTERBACKS

More than his prototypical NFL arm, size and polished technique, rookie QB Andrew Luck has been widely viewed for the past two years as the greatest QB prospect since John Elway because of his rare intangibles. Luck possesses the necessary smarts, toughness, work ethic and overall feel for the game to became one of the NFL's elite triggermen. He is deadly accurate within 20 yards and has the anticipation and confidence to put the ball where it needs to be before his receivers come open. Luck has NFL bloodlines and comes from a pro-style offense that provided him vast experience in running the no-huddle and changing plays at the line of scrimmage. The only real criticisms of Luck are that he does not have an elite arm or natural touch throwing the deep ball. Drew Stanton, a former second-round pick, has all the physical tools one desires in an NFL QB. He is a bright,

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

WR Donnie Avery, OT Winston Justice, DL Cory Redding, C Samson Satele, S Tom Zbikowski.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

RB Joseph Addai, MLB Gary Brackett, TE Dallas Clark, WR Pierre Garcon, QB Peyton Manning, C Jeff Saturday.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Andrew Luck

DEFENSIVE MVP
OLB Robert Mathis

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
OLB Jerry Hughes

POSITION BATTLE
OG: Open competition

A. LUCK

R. MATHIS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B	C	C+	C-	C-	B+	C-	B

hardworking, young player who worked well with Lions QB Matthew Stafford. Seventh-round rookie Chandler Harnish is known for his athleticism and strong intangibles.

RUNNING BACKS

Bright spots were few and far between for the Colts last season, but RB Donald Brown was among them. The former first-round pick still hasn't lived up to his draft status, but he took a positive step by setting career highs in rushing attempts (134), rushing yards (645) and TDs (five) while splitting carries with Delone Carter. Brown is more quick than strong and shows an ability to run away from defenders once he sees daylight. He is nifty in space, and he improved at hitting the hole with authority last season. However, he is not creative when openings aren't there and he has shown little as a receiver. Carter is a physical, north-south back who possesses a low center of gravity and good contact balance. However, poor ball security landed him on the bench late in his rookie season, and he lacks awareness as a blocker. Rookie Vick Ballard is a sturdy, big back who can run with some power. FB Ryan Mahaffey is a willing blocker with soft hands.

RECEIVERS

In a surprising move, the Colts re-signed WR Reggie Wayne to a three-year deal, giving Andrew Luck a dependable target outside the numbers. Wayne, 33, is currently 15th on the NFL's all-time receiving list (862 catches) and 22nd all time in receiving yards (11,708). Although he has lost a step and no longer commands consistent double-teams, Wayne has exceptional body control, hand-eye coordination and very strong and sure hands. He is also remarkably durable. (Wayne has started every game dating back to 2003.) With a revolving door of QBs, hardworking Austin Collie had his lowest output since his rookie season, but, more importantly, he appeared in all 16 games after frightening concussions prematurely ended his breakout '10 campaign. Ideally suited for the slot, Collie gets into his routes quickly and has great concentration in traffic. Deep threat Donnie Avery joins the Colts after failing to make a splash with the Titans. He has not had the same explosiveness since sitting out all of 2010 after undergoing knee surgery. Rookies T.Y. Hilton and LaVon Brazill give Luck a pair of undersized playmakers with whom he can develop chemistry. Hilton has drawn comparisons to Eagles WR DeSean Jackson for his long speed and elusiveness. Brazill is a slender, competitive vertical receiver with upside if he can stay focused. The Colts showed the importance of the TE position in Bruce Arians' offense by following up the Luck pick with Coby Fleener and Dwayne Allen in Rounds Two and Three. Fleener, an outstanding athlete, has tremendous seam-stretching potential, along with excellent body length, leaping ability and catching radius. The sure-handed, competitive Allen, who is a reliable short-to-intermediate target, is more athletic than strong and is very raw as a blocker.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Andrew Luck's protection could be a major issue, as the Colts are building their line with castoffs who underwhelmed at previous stops. The only returning starter from last year's unit is OLT Anthony Castonzo, who took his lumps as a rookie but gained valuable experience battling some of the NFL's better pass rushers. The lengthy and intelligent Castonzo is nimble and plays on his feet, and he displayed the toughness to play through injury much of the season. But he is too stiff and upright and struggled mightily to handle outside speed. ORT Winston Justice, acquired from the Eagles in a trade, has played well in spurts but has failed to match expectations. He is a good athlete, light on his feet and possesses good lateral quickness. However, he lacks instincts and has been injury-prone throughout his career. C Samson Satele was the starter the previous three seasons in Oakland, and scouts say he wins with size and is an average pass protector. The 27-year-old Satele is a good athlete who flashes a mean streak and plays with a lot of energy. The Colts will have heavy competition for the two guard spots, with Mike McGlynn, Ben Ijalana, the club's second-round pick in 2011, and Joe Reitz all in the mix. One scout described the fiery McGlynn as a plodder with limited upside. Ijalana is an impressive athlete who offers good versatility, though he is coming off season-ending knee surgery. Reitz made nine starts at guard last season before sustaining a season-ending knee injury. OTs Jeff Linkenbach and massive rookie Justin Anderson, who is strictly a right tackle, and OG Seth Olsen round out the unit.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	BYE	
Oct. 7	Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at N.Y. Jets	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Miami	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	at Jacksonville	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 18	at New England	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Houston	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Indianapolis

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Houston	(+8.5)	7-34
Sept. 18	Cleveland	(+2)	19-27
Sept. 25	Pittsburgh	(+11)	20-23
Oct. 3	At Tampa Bay	(+10)	17-24
Oct. 9	Kansas City	(-1.5)	24-28
Oct. 16	At Cincinnati	(+4.5)	17-27
Oct. 23	At New Orleans	(+13.5)	7-62
Oct. 30	At Tennessee	(+7.5)	10-27
Nov. 6	Atlanta	(+7)	7-31
Nov. 13	Jacksonville	(+3)	3-17
Nov. 20	BYE		
Nov. 27	Carolina	(+3.5)	19-27
Dec. 4	At New England	(+20.5)	24-31
Dec. 11	At Baltimore	(+16)	10-24
Dec. 18	Tennessee	(+6.5)	27-13
Dec. 22	Houston	(+7)	19-16
Jan. 1	At Jacksonville	(+3)	13-19

DEFENSE

Chuck Pagano and coordinator Greg Manusky will run a hybrid 3-4 scheme that has very little in common with Indianapolis' cover-2 of years past. While the old defense was regarded as vanilla, Pagano's success in Baltimore stemmed from exotic blitzes and disguised coverages designed to generate pressure from all over the field. Pagano wants to set the tone defensively, putting the offense on its heels, and DEs-turned-OLBs Robert Mathis and Dwight Freeney will still be primarily responsible for wreaking havoc in the new-look "D."

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

One of Chuck Pagano's first moves after joining the Colts was signing DLE Cory

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@HOU.**	**CLEV.**	**PITT.**	**@T.B.**	**K.C.**	**@CIN.**	**@N.O.**	**@TEN.**	**ATL.**	**JAX.**	**CAR.**	**@N.E.**	**@BALT.**	**TEN.**	**HOU.**	**@JAX.**	
Score	7-34	19-27	20-23	17-24	24-28	17-27	7-62	10-27	7-31	3-17	19-27	24-31	10-24	27-13	19-16	13-19	
Total net yards	236	285	241	318	355	273	252	399	186	212	323	437	167	287	320	298	4589
Rushing yards	64	109	97	62	78	94	155	158	83	84	105	99	50	205	95	56	1594
Passing yards	172	176	144	256	277	179	97	241	103	128	218	338	117	82	225	242	2995
Rushing plays	16	26	21	18	27	23	23	26	21	23	23	31	16	34	32	22	382
Sacks allowed	3	2	1	4	0	1	1	2	2	5	2	2	4	0	3	3	35
Had intercepted	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	14
Fumbles lost	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	15
Yards penalized	60	21	21	50	40	11	49	66	32	40	15	29	15	25	35	40	549
Punts	6	4	7	6	5	4	6	7	9	6	5	3	6	7	5	3	89
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	36:44	34:17	33:58	39:00	33:07	33:36	38:19	31:28	37:46	35:21	36:17	24:21	36:08	31:57	27:05	30:48	33:47
Total net yards	384	303	408	466	436	358	557	311	432	251	377	362	358	388	283	261	5935
Rushing yards	167	106	67	192	194	94	236	96	163	141	201	73	146	66	171	190	2303
Passing yards	217	197	341	274	242	264	321	215	269	110	176	289	212	322	112	71	3632
Rushing plays	41	34	28	36	38	31	38	31	41	41	35	24	37	19	31	35	540
Sacks allowed	1	1	3	2	2	0	2	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	4	3	29
Had intercepted	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	8
Fumbles lost	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	9
Yards penalized	30	49	38	106	39	111	10	40	10	55	92	20	40	70	84	10	804
Punts	2	5	3	5	6	5	1	8	7	6	4	4	3	7	6	2	74

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Addai	8-39-0	14-64-0	17-86-1	11-41-0	6-19-0		2-8-0				7-23-0	13-39-0	2-16-0	11-20-0	19-59-0	8-19-0	118-433-1
D. Brown					8-38-0	5-35-1	9-47-0	10-33-1	16-70-0	14-53-0	14-80-1	14-41-1	9-28-0	16-161-1	11-35-0	8-24-0	134-645-5
Carter	7-25-0	11-46-0	4-11-0	7-21-0	12-22-1	14-45-0	10-89-1	9-46-0	4-8-0	6-14-0		3-20-0	5-6-0	3-19-0	1-(-1)-0	5-6-0	101-377-2
Garcon										1-18-0	2-2-0			1-8-0			4-28-0
Painter					1-(-1)-0	4-14-0	2-11-0	7-79-0	1-5-0	2-(-1)-0							17-107-0

PASSING **

Collins	16-31-0 197-1	19-38-1 191-1	13-29-0 93-0														48-98-1 481-2
Orlovsky							3-5-0 35-0		4-6-0 20-0	7-10-0 67-0		30-37-1 353-2	17-37-1 136-1	11-17-0 82-1	23-41-0 244-1	27-40-2 264-1	122-193-4 1201-6
Painter			5-11-0 60-0	13-30-0 281-2	15-27-0 277-2	23-34-1 188-1	9-17-1 67-0	26-49-2 250-0	13-27-1 98-0	13-19-2 94-0	15-29-2 226-1						132-243-9 1541-6

RECEIVING

Addai	2-13-0	4-37-0	1-2-0	1-7-0	1-6-0		2-11-0					1-2-0		2-7-0	1-8-0		15-93-0
D. Brown						2-16-0		1-1-0	1-1-0	4-12-0	1-17-0	1-15-0	1-(-6)-0	1-2-0	2-13-0	2-15-0	16-86-0
Carter					2-12-0			2-1-0								1-5-0	5-18-0
Clark	4-39-0	4-32-1	2-12-0	3-46-0	1-7-0	6-53-1		6-77-0	2-21-0				1-12-0			5-53-0	34-352-2
Collie		3-24-0	5-29-0	2-16-0	2-50-0	1-8-0	2-12-0	5-44-0	4-32-0	4-31-0	3-28-0	7-70-0	4-25-0		3-49-0	9-96-1	54-514-1
Eldridge		1-4-0	1-4-0	1-7-0			2-12-0		1-6-0					1-4-0	2-8-0		9-45-0
Garcon	3-39-0	3-28-0	6-82-0	2-146-2	5-125-2	8-52-0	3-31-0	7-66-0	3-22-0	3-30-0	3-34-0	9-150-2	5-46-0	2-24-0	6-50-0	2-22-0	70-947-6
Tamme						1-1-0			2-6-0	6-75-0	2-20-0	5-49-0	1-13-1	1-3-0	1-10-0		19-177-1
Wayne	7-106-1	4-66-0	3-24-0	4-59-0	4-77-0	5-58-0	3-36-0	5-61-0	4-30-0	3-13-0	5-122-1	5-55-0	4-41-0	3-33-1	8-106-1	8-73-0	75-960-4

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Andrew Luck	QB	Stanford	1
2	Coby Fleener	TE	Stanford	34
3	Dwayne Allen	TE	Clemson	64
3	T.Y. Hilton	WR	Florida International	92
5	Josh Chapman	NT	Alabama	136
5	Vick Ballard	RB	Mississippi State	170
6	LaVon Brazill	WR	Ohio	206
7	Justin Anderson	ORT	Georgia	208
7	Tim Fugger	OLB	Vanderbilt	214
7	Chandler Harnish	QB	Northern Illinois	253

A. LUCK

Redding, an underrated run stuffer who played under Pagano in Baltimore the past two seasons. The 31-year-old Redding had one of his better seasons in 2011, registering 4½ sacks and 43 tackles. While his numbers at a non-glamour position don't stand out, Redding's high motor and ability to set the edge will serve the Colts well. Redding also has very active hands, good leadership traits and has been durable throughout his career. Penciled in at right end is Drake Nevis, arguably Indianapolis' best defensive tackle as a rookie before he went down with a season-ending back injury. Nevis is a quick-footed, agile penetrator who will have to become more sturdy against the run if he is to make a successful conversion from 4-3 tackle to 3-4 end. NT Brandon McKinney, who spent time in Baltimore and San Diego as a rotational player, holdover Antonio Johnson and rookie Josh Chapman will share time manning the middle. At 6-2, 345 pounds, McKinney has the size needed to clog the interior, though both he and Johnson lack dynamic traits. Chapman is a massive, bad-bodied, short-armed inside clogger who played through an ACL injury as a senior. It remains to be seen how underachieving DL Fili Moala and undersized DT Ricardo Mathews will fit into the new scheme.

LINEBACKERS

The new Colts staff believes DEs-turned-OLBs Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis are "game wreckers" who can successfully stand up on early downs and still wreak havoc. Few players in the game have greater take-off speed and explosiveness and can dip and bend around the corner quite like this pair. But it remains to be seen if they can attack the run and effectively set the edge. Freeney (102½ career sacks, 43 forced fumbles) and Mathis (83½ sacks, 39 forced fumbles) possess similar skills, though Freeney's patented swim move is particularly lethal while Mathis' relentlessness makes him a slightly better run defender. Both players are also remarkably durable. ILB Pat Angerer is a rangy, versatile run-and-hit 'backer with a nose for the football (148 tackles, fourth in the NFL) who rarely comes off the field. He has good lateral quickness to shuffle and slide and is quick to locate the ball. ILB Kavell Conner is from a similar mold as Angerer. He is very active and more quick-footed than his counterpart, while generally taking good angles and pursuing hard to the ball. Conner and Angerer both can be exposed in coverage, with Conner in particular lacking fluidity on his drops. No Colt needed a fresh start more than agile and athletic OLB Jerry Hughes, who will move back to the position at which he excelled in college. Hughes struggled adapting to the speed and complexity of the NFL in his first two seasons. Rookie Tim Fugger was a high-motor defensive end in college. He can contribute readily on special teams.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Other than quarterback, no position was in greater flux than cornerback last season. Even the club's best corner, Jerraud Powers, had a down year before winding up on injured reserve with a broken left forearm. Powers makes up for his lack of size and speed with very solid fundamentals and strong instincts. He is a sure tackler with good ball skills and closing speed. Kevin Thomas and Chris Rucker, both of whom possess great size and length for the position, will compete for the LCB job. A sixth-round pick in 2011, Rucker held up surprisingly well when forced into duty. Though he lacks instincts, he has plenty of physicality and

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	87 WAYNE	11 Avery		
OLT	74 CASTONZO	72 Linkenbach		
OLG	76 REITZ	73 Olsen		
C	66 SATELE	65 Kirkpatrick		
ORG	71 IJALANA	75 McGlynn		
ORT	69 JUSTICE	67 Tepper	79 Anderson*	
TE	80 FLEENER*	83 Allen*	81 Eldridge	
WR	17 COLLIE	13 Hilton*	15 Brazill*	
QB	12 LUCK*	5 Stanton	8 Harnish*	
RB	31 D. BROWN	34 Carter	33 Ballard*	
FB	47 MAHAFFEY			
DEFENSE				
DLE	90 REDDING	95 Moala		
NT	99 A. JOHNSON	96 McKinney	61 Chapman*	
DRE	94 NEVIS	91 Mathews		
LOLB	98 MATHIS	92 Hughes		
LILB	53 CONNER	52 Edds		
RILB	51 ANGERER	54 Harvey	56 Lutrus	
ROLB	93 FREENEY	58 Fugger*		
LCB	36 RUCKER	21 Thomas		
RCB	25 POWERS	37 King		
SS	28 ZBIKOWSKI	30 Caldwell		
FS	41 BETHEA	26 Hines		
SPECIALISTS				
P	1 McAFEE			
PK	4 VINATIERI			
H	1 McAFEE			
PR	35 LEFEGED	13 Hilton*	15 Brazill*	
KR	35 LEFEGED	13 Hilton*	15 Brazill*	
LS	48 SNOW			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Roy Anderson, safeties; Bruce Arians, offensive coordinator; James Bettcher, special asst. to the head coach; Brant Boyer, asst. special teams; Clyde Christensen, quarterbacks; Gary Emanuel, defensive line; Jeff Fitzgerald, linebackers; Joe Gilbert, asst. offensive line; Mike Gillhamer, secondary; Frank, Giufre; quality control/offense; Harold Goodwin, offensive line; Richard Howell, asst. strength and conditioning; Marwan Maalouf, special-teams coordinator; Roger Marandino, strength and conditioning; Greg Manusky, defensive coordinator; Chuck Pagano, head coach; Alfredo Roberts, tight ends; David Walker, running backs; Brad White, quality control/defense; Charlie Williams, wide receivers.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
97	Addison, Mario	DE	6-3	252	2	Troy	7/0
68	Aiono, James	DE	6-3	305	R	Utah	
83	Allen, Dwayne	TE	6-3	255	R	Clemson	
79	Anderson, Justin	OL	6-5	342	R	Georgia	
51	Angerer, Pat	LB	6-0	235	3	Iowa	16/16
78	Anunoby, Chigbo	DT	6-4	324	R	Morehouse	
11	Avery, Donnie	WR	5-11	183	4	Houston	8/0
78	Baker, Steven	OT	6-8	310	R	East Carolina	
33	Ballard, Vick	RB	5-10	217	R	Mississippi State	
41	Bethea, Antoine	S	5-11	203	7	Howard	16/16
15	Brazill, LaVon	WR	5-11	191	R	Ohio	
31	Brown, Donald	RB	5-10	210	4	Connecticut	16/2
30	Caldwell, David	S	5-11	212	2	William & Mary	16/13
34	Carter, Delone	RB	5-9	225	2	Syracuse	16/3
74	Castonzo, Anthony	OT	6-7	305	2	Boston College	12/12
61	Chapman, Josh	DT	6-0	316	R	Alabama	
39	Chism, Cameron	CB	5-10	190	R	Maryland	
17	Collie, Austin	WR	6-0	200	4	Brigham Young	16/5
53	Conner, Kavell	LB	6-0	242	3	Clemson	16/15
14	Cosby, Quan	WR	5-9	190	4	Texas	10/0
59	Eagan, Kevin	DE	6-4	276	R	Endicott (Mass.)	
52	Edds, A.J.	LB	6-4	244	2	Iowa	11/0
81	Eldridge, Brody	TE	6-5	265	3	Oklahoma	13/8
32	Evans, Darren	RB	6-0	220	2	Virginia Tech	2/0
16	Fayson, Jarred	WR	6-0	215	R	Illinois	
29	Fenelus, Antonio	CB	5-9	190	R	Wisconsin	
80	Fleener, Coby	TE	6-5	252	R	Stanford	
68	Foster, Jason	OT	6-5	305	R	Rhode Island	
50	Freeman, Jerrell	LB	6-0	234	1	Mary Hardin-Baylor	0/0
93	Freeney, Dwight	LB-DE	6-1	268	11	Syracuse	16/15
58	Fugger, Tim	LB	6-4	250	R	Vanderbilt	
43	Galippo, Chris	LB	6-2	250	R	USC	
49	Gronkowski, Chris	RB	6-2	246	3	Arizona	7/0
8	Harnish, Chandler	QB	6-2	220	R	Northern Illinois	
54	Harvey, Mario	LB	6-0	250	1	Marshall	0/0
55	Hickman, Justin	DE	6-2	265	R	UCLA	
61	Hicks, Hayworth	OG	6-3	336	R	Iowa State	
13	Hilton, T.Y.	WR	5-9	183	R	Florida International	
26	Hines, Jermale	S	6-1	218	2	Ohio State	10/0
20	Holmes, Mike	DB	5-11	184	1	Syracuse	0/0
92	Hughes, Jerry	DE	6-2	255	3	TCU	12/1
71	Ijalana, Ben	OG-OT	6-4	317	2	Villanova	4/0
40	Jackson, Buddy	CB	6-1	180	R	Pittsburgh	
99	Johnson, Antonio	DT	6-3	310	5	Mississippi State	16/12
23	Johnson, Terrence	CB	5-9	190	2	California (Pa.)	10/2
46	Jones, Dominique	TE	6-3	255	R	Shepherd (W.V.)	
69	Justice, Winston	OT	6-6	320	7	USC	6/1
39	Karim, Deji	RB	5-8	209	3	Southern Illinois	12/0
37	King, Brandon	CB	5-10	194	3	Purdue	4/0
65	Kirkpatrick, Jake	C	6-3	305	1	TCU	0/0
35	Lefeged, Joe	S	6-0	205	2	Rutgers	16/1
72	Linkenbach, Jeff	OT	6-6	311	3	Cincinnati	16/16
12	Luck, Andrew	QB	6-4	234	R	Stanford	
56	Lutrus, Scott	LB	6-2	241	2	Connecticut	4/0
47	Mahaffey, Ryan	FB	6-2	255	2	Northern Iowa	5/0
91	Mathews, Ricardo	DL	6-3	294	3	Cincinnati	12/0
98	Mathis, Robert	LB-DE	6-2	245	10	Alabama A&M	16/15
1	McAfee, Pat	P	6-1	220	4	West Virginia	16/0
75	McGlynn, Mike	OG	6-4	315	5	Pittsburgh	7/4
96	McKinney, Brandon	DT	6-2	345	8	Michigan State	12/0
27	Merletti, Matt	S	5-11	205	R	North Carolina	
86	Miller, Kyle	TE	6-5	257	R	Mount Union	
95	Moala, Fili	DT	6-4	303	4	USC	14/14
60	Murphy, Matt	OG	6-4	300	R	UNLV	
94	Nevis, Drake	DT	6-1	294	2	LSU	5/0
38	Newton, Mike	S	5-10	197	2	Buffalo	12/0
64	Ogbu, Ollie	DT	6-1	283	R	Penn State	
73	Olsen, Seth	OG	6-5	312	3	Iowa	6/1
45	Overton, Matt	LS	6-0	254	R	Western Washington	
57	Peguese, Brandon	DE	6-1	230	R	Hampton	
42	Pellerin, Micah	S	6-1	195	R	Hampton	
25	Powers, Jerraud	CB	5-10	192	4	Auburn	12/12
90	Redding, Cory	DE	6-4	298	10	Texas	15/11
76	Reitz, Joe	OG-OT	6-7	320	3	Western Michigan	11/9
10	Ross, Jeremy	WR	5-11	213	R	California	
36	Rucker, Chris	CB	6-1	195	2	Michigan State	15/4
85	Sambrano, Jabin	WR	5-11	175	R	Montana	
66	Satele, Samson	C	6-3	300	6	Hawaii	15/15
62	Shipley, A.Q.	C	6-1	315	1	Penn State	0/0
48	Snow, Justin	LS	6-3	240	13	Baylor	16/0
3	Stahovich, Brian	P	6-0	190	R	San Diego State	
5	Stanton, Drew	QB	6-3	230	5	Michigan State	0/0
67	Tepper, Mike	OT	6-6	323	2	California	6/4
21	Thomas, Kevin	CB	6-0	192	3	USC	9/5
33	Thomas, Lattarius	S	6-1	210	R	Eastern Michigan	
4	Vinatieri, Adam	PK	6-0	202	17	South Dakota State	16/0
9	Vittatoe, Trevor	QB	6-2	220	1	UTEP	0/0
87	Wayne, Reggie	WR	6-0	198	12	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
84	Whalen, Griff	WR	6-1	185	R	Stanford	
28	Zbikowski, Tom	SS	5-11	200	5	Notre Dame	14/4

athleticism for the position. Thomas dealt with injuries as a rookie and took awhile to get on the field during his sophomore campaign, but he is naturally athletic with a good feel for the position. Amid a disastrous season, FS Antoine Bethea was a pillar of consistency, registering a career-high 139 tackles and starting all 16 games for a fourth consecutive season. The ballhawking Bethea is tough as nails and instinctive — he breaks quickly on the ball and is rarely out of place. Another former Raven, SS Tom Zbikowski, is the likely front-runner to start with Bethea. The confident and highly competitive Zbikowski plays with reckless abandon and relishes contact. His strength is playing in the box, though he shows good awareness in zone coverage. SS David Caldwell started 13 games last season and was up and down. He is an intriguing athlete but dropped a number of easy interceptions.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Adam Vinatieri and P Pat McAfee were bright spots in 2011. Vinatieri's range is no longer great, but the 39-year-old is the best clutch kicker in the game and ranks 13th in NFL history in field-goal percentage (82.9). McAfee, who possesses big-time leg strength, finished the season with a 46.6 gross punting average, a franchise record, and added 21 punts downed inside the 20. McAfee also finished second in the league in touchback percentage (65.1) on kickoffs. Notoriously awful on special teams, the Colts drafted a pair of dangerous return men in T.Y. Hilton and LaVon Brazill, who will get chances to make plays.

SUMMARY

The good news for the Colts is that they couldn't have found a better face of the franchise and new centerpiece than Andrew Luck. The bad news is that a massive overhaul of the roster is needed before the club is likely to have a chance to restore its greatness. Chuck Pagano and Ryan Grigson have their hands full surrounding Luck with better weapons and adding bigger, stronger players on both sides of the ball who better fit their scheme.

DENVER Broncos

2012 PREDICTION: 9-7 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(FIRST PLACE IN AFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. FOX

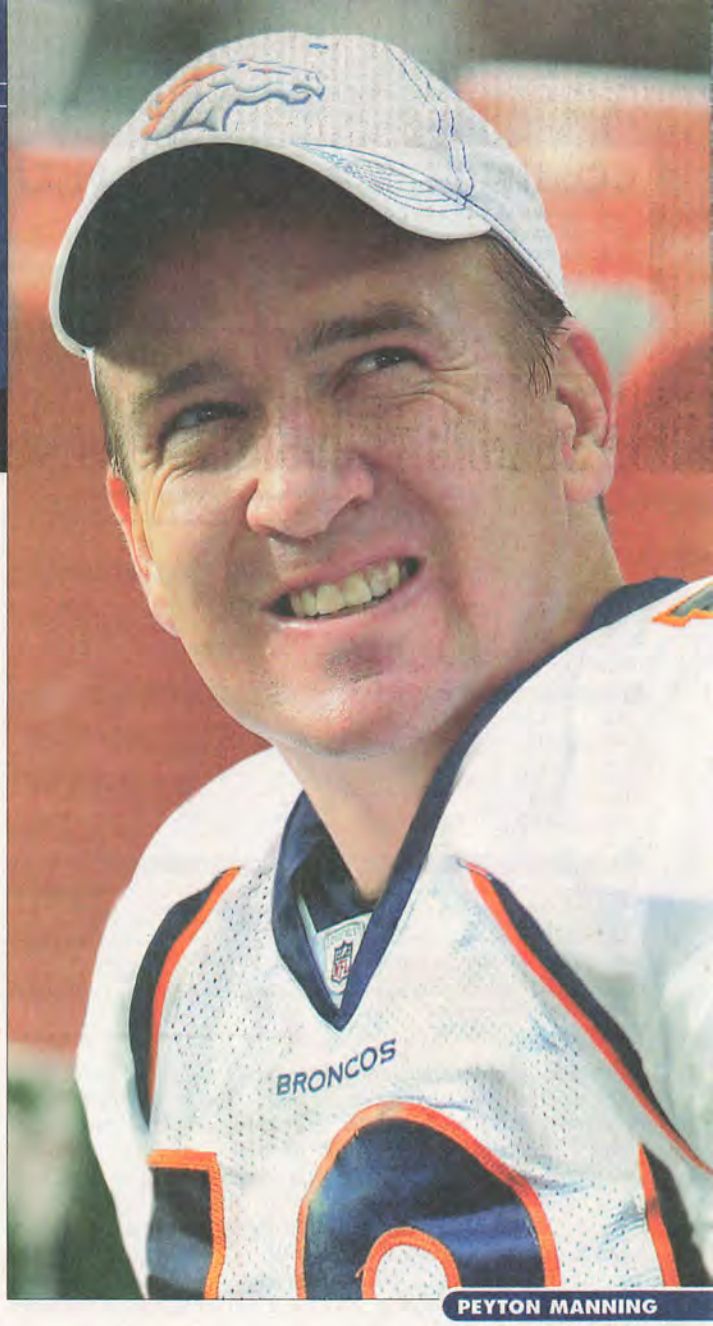
HEAD COACH: John Fox
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike McCoy
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jack Del Rio
OWNER: Pat Bowlen
STADIUM: Invesco Field at Mile High | **CAPACITY:** 76,125
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.denverbroncos.com

In 2011, the Broncos went from worst to first in the AFC West, shocking the league with a miraculous run to the playoffs and, even more surprisingly, winning in the wild-card round over the Steelers. Yet, what they did this offseason qualifies as even more astounding.

Over a two-day span in March, the Broncos signed the most sought-after free agent in NFL history, QB Peyton Manning, and traded the league's most polarizing player, QB Tim Tebow. By doing this, Denver completely shifted its expectations for the 2012 season and made the chance of repeating as division champs not only a goal, but a requirement. If Manning is healthy, the Broncos are among the teams that have a realistic chance of ending their season in New Orleans at Super Bowl XLVII.

The arrival of the four-time MVP not only changes the team's objectives for the season, but also the offense. Under Tebow, the team used a run-first attack that was typically quiet for the first three quarters of games before awakening in the fourth. That worked for a while but caught up to the Broncos in the end, when the Patriots beat them 45-10 in the AFC divisional playoffs. With Manning under center, the team will throw the ball more often and run all of the routes on the passing tree, hoping to jump out in front of opponents early in games.

Manning chose the Broncos, thinking that they gave him the best chance to win a second title before retirement. With veteran coach John Fox at the helm and an improving defense, the quarterback and the team can make that happen.



PEYTON MANNING

OFFENSE

Trash the option reads, the quarterback draws and short shovel passes that dominated the Broncos' offensive playbook for much of the 2011 season. With Tim Tebow gone and Peyton Manning in as Denver's quarterback, the team will transform from a run-dominated attack to more of a downfield passing scheme. Coordinator Mike McCoy is versatile and able to adapt to various situations, putting his players in the best position to succeed. That likely will mean a lot of shotgun, one-back offense, the system Manning has played in for much of his career.

QUARTERBACKS

After four neck operations that forced him to miss all of the 2011 season while a member of the Colts, the greatest concern surrounding Peyton Manning is his ability to stay healthy. The 36-year-old quarterback showed in spring workouts he still can drop back and throw the ball well, but until he actually goes against a defense and takes a hit, there will be questions about how well he can play over the course of 16 games. Manning always has been a master at reading defenses and audibilizing at the line, and he will have great control in Denver to change plays and do what he believes would be best for the offense. In 2010, he threw a career-high 679 times, and Manning's arm strength and accuracy have never been doubted when he is healthy. If the Broncos are to have a successful season,

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

SS Mike Adams, DT Justin Bannan, WR Andre Caldwell, TE Joel Dreessen, QB Peyton Manning, CB Tracy Porter, TE Jacob Tamme.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

DT Brodrick Bunkley, FS Brian Dawkins, CB André Goodman, WR Eddie Royal, QB Tim Tebow.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Peyton Manning

DEFENSIVE MVP
OLB Von Miller

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
WR Demaryius Thomas

POSITION BATTLE
DT: Open competition

P. MANNING

V. MILLER

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
A-	B-	C+	B	C	A-	B	B

Manning must stay on the field. Backup Caleb Hanie was a disaster in four starts in 2011 for the Bears, throwing nine interceptions and taking 19 sacks. His poor decision making makes him best-suited to hold a clipboard on the sideline. The team drafted 6-foot-7 Brock Osweiler to be the quarterback of the future. He has a live arm, though he must improve making reads and delivering throws on time.

RUNNING BACKS

Signed to be a complementary back, Willis McGahee emerged as the leader of the offense fairly early in the 2011 season. A bruising runner who has surprising speed given his history of leg injuries, McGahee had seven games with 100 or more rushing yards en route to a Pro Bowl appearance. His performance helped the Broncos become the top rushing team in the NFL. Well-built and durable, McGahee, who turns 31 in October, will be expected to grind out tough yards. However, he's expected to see a decrease in attempts in a more pass-heavy offense. He's not much of a receiver, and with Manning under center, the Broncos will be throwing to their backs more often. Rookie Ronnie Hillman lacks ideal size but is a playmaker who could replace McGahee on third downs. Former first-round pick Knowshon Moreno, who had surgery to repair a torn ACL last November, will compete for the No. 3 RB job with the versatile Lance Ball. Whichever of the two is better at pass protection might get the upper hand, as the Broncos do not have a starting-caliber fullback on the roster.

RECEIVERS

With quick hands to haul in a deep pass, a devastating stiff-arm to separate from a defender and a burst of speed to dash down the sideline, WR Demaryius Thomas not only won Denver's AFC wild-card playoff game vs. the Steelers with an 80-yard touchdown last January, he also lifted himself into the top class of NFL wideouts. The third-year receiver is the team's top target and will be Pro Bowl-bound if he can stay healthy. Fast and physical, Thomas gained 17.2 yards per catch in the regular season and nearly 30 yards per reception on 10 postseason catches. Only 24, it wouldn't be a surprise to see Thomas take the next step now that he's in a pass-first offense with an accurate quarterback, assuming he improves his route running. On the other side is speedster Eric Decker, who led the Broncos in receptions, yards and touchdowns in 2011. Decker can create separation from defenders with his quick first step and has reliable hands, though he struggled making plays in traffic a year ago. Andre Caldwell and Matthew Willis will see time in the slot. Caldwell, a free-agent pickup from the Bengals, has big-play ability but too often disappears during games. Willis has shown an ability to move the chains. Veteran Brandon Stokley, a close friend of Manning's, provides depth in the slot. Tight ends will have a major role in the offense, and the team signed two in free agency. Veteran Joel Dreessen is a big target who is both a solid run blocker and a reliable receiver. He likely will be the starter. Former Colt Jacob Tamme is comfortable playing with Manning and can line up in a variety of spots, able to play on the line, outside and in the backfield as an H-back.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Playing with a pocket passer who unloads the ball quickly should serve the Broncos' offensive line well. In 2011, the team allowed 42 sacks, a byproduct of QB Tim Tebow's running outside the pocket and slow decision making. Manning's ability to hit open receivers downfield in a short amount of time will make the same five blockers look much better in 2012. OLT Ryan Clady is the star of the line, despite allowing nine sacks a season ago. Clady's reputation often brings more praise than his actual play deserves, but he is an athletic tackle who can seal the edge and should do well protecting Manning's blind side. ORT Orlando Franklin, one of the team's second-round picks in 2011, started every game as a rookie and improved as the season went along. A physical blocker, he should continue to get better. C J.D. Walton can be pushed around at times but is a solid run blocker and should be a good fit for the no-huddle offense Manning runs, which requires a lot of line calls by the center. Neither of the team's starting guards — OLG Zane Beadles and ORG Chris Kuper — is elite, though both are solid pass protectors and strong vs. the run. The team hopes Kuper will be ready for training camp after he suffered a dislocated ankle and broken left leg in Week 17. Rookie Philip Blake can fill in for Kuper if necessary; he also can line up at center. Blake is a big-bodied, short-area, wall-off positional blocker whose instincts are still developing. Reserve OT Chris Clark saw extended playing time in '11 in jumbo formations and can sub in for either Clady or Franklin.

DEFENSE

Ex-Jaguars head coach Jack Del Rio steps in as defensive coordinator, replacing Dennis Allen, who took the head-coaching job with the Raiders. Del Rio has historically run an attacking 4-3 scheme, and that approach fits the Broncos' personnel perfectly. With two terrific pass rushers in Elvis Dumervil and Von Miller, as well as a pair of ballhawking cornerbacks, Denver will look to pressure teams into making mistakes. The unit showed improvement under Allen at times in 2011 but did allow 40

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Pittsburgh	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 17	at Atlanta	8:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	Houston	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 30	Oakland	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 7	at New England	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 15	at San Diego	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	BYE	
Oct. 28	New Orleans	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	San Diego	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Tampa Bay	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Oakland	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	Cleveland	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 30	Kansas City	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Denver

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 12	Oakland	(-3)	20-23
Sept. 18	Cincinnati	(-3)	24-22
Sept. 25	At Tennessee	(+7)	14-17
Oct. 2	At Green Bay	(+12)	23-49
Oct. 9	San Diego	(+3.5)	24-29
Oct. 16	BYE		
Oct. 23	At Miami	(-1)	18-15*
Oct. 30	Detroit	(+3)	10-45
Nov. 6	At Oakland	(+7)	38-24
Nov. 13	At Kansas City	(+3)	17-10
Nov. 17	New York Jets	(+6.5)	17-13
Nov. 27	At San Diego	(+4.5)	16-13*
Dec. 4	At Minnesota	(+1)	35-32
Dec. 11	Chicago	(-3)	13-10*
Dec. 18	New England	(+7)	23-41
Dec. 24	At Buffalo	(-3)	14-40
Jan. 1	Kansas City	(-2)	3-7
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 8	Pittsburgh	(+7.5)	29-23*
Jan. 14	At New England	(+14)	10-45

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**OAK.**	**CIN.**	**@TEN.**	**@G.B.**	**S.D.**	**@MIA.**	**DET.**	**@OAK.**	**@K.C.**	**N.Y.J.**	**@S.D.**	**@MINN.**	**CHI.**	**N.E.**	**@BUFF.**	**K.C.**	
Score	20-23	24-22	14-17	23-49	24-29	18-15	10-45	38-24	17-10	17-13	16-13	35-32	13-10	23-41	14-40	3-7	
Total net yards	310	318	231	384	275	308	312	412	313	229	349	336	345	393	285	266	5066
Rushing yards	38	131	59	119	162	177	195	299	244	125	208	150	124	252	133	216	2632
Passing yards	272	187	172	265	113	131	117	113	69	104	141	186	221	141	152	50	2434
Rushing plays	13	36	23	23	23	40	30	39	55	34	51	32	34	31	35	47	546
Sacks allowed	5	2	1	1	0	6	7	1	0	1	1	2	5	4	4	2	42
Had intercepted	1	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	13
Fumbles lost	2	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	1	1	17
Yards penalized	91	55	15	24	53	30	55	93	65	51	63	73	28	39	58	49	842
Punts	4	6	5	2	6	9	7	5	7	8	9	6	8	3	7	9	101
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss. ***	32:35	29:45	30:54	33:01	40:08	29:34	29:34	28:09	26:22	32:12	30:06	37:51	28:42	33:41	29:29	27:02	31:09
Total net yards	289	382	333	507	418	267	376	416	258	318	344	489	245	451	351	281	5725
Rushing yards	190	72	38	111	206	94	113	100	134	83	185	129	159	141	160	106	2021
Passing yards	99	310	295	396	212	173	263	316	124	235	159	360	86	310	191	175	3704
Rushing plays	39	20	23	28	43	31	28	26	24	28	36	30	38	36	28	30	488
Sacks allowed	1	2	2	2	5	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	1	1	41
Had intercepted	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
Fumbles lost	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	9
Yards penalized	131	69	80	27	0	20	45	130	40	15	30	54	69	30	69	36	845
Punts	6	5	4	1	3	8	7	6	7	6	6	6	11	4	4	8	92

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Ball		6-28-0	1-7-0	2-5-0		6-14-0	6-63-0	4-14-0	30-96-0	5-18-0	4-19-0	7-25-0	1-13-0	11-64-1	4-12-0	9-24-0	96-402-1
J. Johnson										3-(-2)-0			2-18-0	1-25-0	6-23-0	2-13-0	14-77-0
McGahee	4-3-0	28-101-1	22-52-0	15-103-0	16-125-0	18-76-0		20-163-2	4-17-0	12-18-0	23-117-0	20-111-1	17-34-0	7-70-0	15-64-0	28-145-0	249-1199-4
Moreno	8-22-0			2-4-0		7-28-0	14-69-0	2-4-0	4-52-0								37-179-0
Tebow				1-(-1)-0	6-38-1	9-59-0	10-63-0	13-118-0	9-43-1	8-68-1	22-67-0	4-13-0	12-49-0	12-93-2	10-34-1	6-16-0	122-660-6

PASSING **

Orton	24-46-1 304-1	15-25-0 195-2	24-39-2 173-2	22-32-3 273-3	6-13-1 34-0												91-155-7 979-8
Tebow					4-10-0 79-1	13-27-0 161-2	18-39-1 172-1	10-21-0 124-2	2-8-0 69-1	9-20-0 104-0	9-18-0 143-1	10-15-0 202-2	21-40-1 236-1	11-22-0 194-0	13-29-3 185-1	6-22-1 60-0	126-271-6 1729-12

RECEIVING

Ball	1-9-1		3-11-0	1-6-0			1-4-0			2-26-0		2-14-0	4-37-0	2-41-0			16-148-1
Decker	3-53-0	5-113-2	7-48-0	5-56-2	2-(-4)-0	2-21-0	6-72-1	3-47-1	1-56-1		3-65-1	2-25-0	3-33-0	1-22-0		1-5-0	44-612-8
Fells	3-32-0	1-9-0	2-42-0	2-29-1	3-47-0	2-31-1	1-5-0	1-6-0			1-19-0				2-22-1	1-14-0	19-256-3
Larsen	1-15-0	3-23-0	2-9-0	1-6-0		1-16-0										1-7-0	9-76-0
Lloyd	6-89-0		4-38-0	8-136-0	1-20-0												19-283-0
McGahee	5-32-0	1-5-0	3-2-1	2-10-0									1-2-0				12-51-1
Moreno	2-35-0			1-7-0	3-40-1	2-10-0	1-5-0	2-4-0									11-101-1
Rosario					1-10-0		1-7-0	1-13-0		1-18-0	1-23-0				2-46-0		7-117-0
Royal	2-33-0	2-18-0				2-14-0	6-41-0	2-25-1		3-15-0		1-7-0			1-2-0		19-155-1
D. Thomas						3-27-1	1-10-0	1-29-0		2-37-0		4-144-2	7-78-1	7-116-0	4-76-0	3-34-0	32-551-4
Willis	1-6-0	2-22-0	2-16-1	1-15-0		1-42-0	1-28-0		1-13-0		2-12-0	1-12-0	4-75-0	1-15-0	1-11-0		18-267-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

or more points five times in the regular season and playoffs.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

After missing all of 2010 with a torn pectoral muscle, DRE Elvis Dumervil reclaimed his spot as one of the NFL's top pass rushers with a terrific season. One of the league's fastest linemen, Dumervil can blow by opponents with his great first step and also dip under blocks because of his short stature. Though not great against the run, few ends can impact the game like Dumervil because of his ability to get to the quarterback. DLE Robert Ayers is strong against the run but requires nowhere near the amount of attention or blockers as Dumervil. His greatest attribute is his long arms, which allow him to deflect passes at the line. Veteran DT Justin Bannan is a physical mauler who will play on early downs and complement NT Kevin Vickerson, a large body who will be asked to clog running lanes. In the nickel package, DT Derek Wolfe, the team's top draft pick, will show his strengths as a pass rusher, though he must improve at fighting off blocks. Denver is also hopeful to get something out of veteran DT Ty Warren after he missed all of 2010 and '11 with injuries. DL Jason Hunter can thrive as a situational pass rusher but isn't an every-down player.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
2	Derek Wolfe	DT	Cincinnati	36
2	Brock Osweiler	QB	Arizona State	57
3	Ronnie Hillman	RB	Fresno State	67
4	Omar Bolden	CB	Arizona State	101
4	Philip Blake	OG-C	Baylor	108
5	Malik Jackson	DT	Tennessee	137
6	Danny Trevathan	LB	Kentucky	188

D. WOLFE

LINEBACKERS

Jack Del Rio's aggressive scheme should mean even more pass-rushing opportunities for strong-side LB Von Miller, a scary thought for opposing quarterbacks. As a rookie in 2011, Miller had 11½ sacks and 29 QB hits, despite having only one elite pass-rush move and being hampered by a late-season broken thumb. Now, with a full season under his belt, the physical 'backer is set to wreak even more havoc. A strong open-field tackler, Miller gets upfield well with outstanding speed and also makes an impact in the run game. It won't be long before he's mentioned as one of the NFL's elite defenders. MLB Joe Mays lacks size, but he fights off blocks well and has a nose for the ball against the run. WLB D.J. Williams doesn't have the speed he displayed early in his career, though he makes up for it with a high football IQ and great sideline-to-sideline range. Williams can rush the quarterback, stop the run and is an above-average pass defender. However, he could miss the first six games of the season on a league-mandated suspension after violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing drugs. Wesley Woodyard is a skilled playmaker with good speed and is in line to start at the WLB spot if Williams is sidelined. Backup LB Nate Irving didn't see the field much as a rookie and still must add strength to become an impact player. Veteran Mario Haggan also sees the field as a backup both inside and outside.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Able to play either outside or in the slot, Champ Bailey is nearly impossible to beat deep because of his ability to play the ball, and he's strong jamming receivers at the line. Teams are willing to throw his way more often, however, than they were in years past. Bailey, who will be 34 years old this season, will start at left corner, across from free-agent arrival Tracy Porter. A ballhawk who is much more comfortable going for interceptions than making tackles, Porter will be beat by physical wideouts. However, he is able to capitalize when quarterbacks make mistakes in his direction. Nickel CB Chris Harris was a fantastic find on the undrafted free-agent market in 2011. Physical and fearless, Harris loves to play the run and get under his

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE			
WR	88 D. THOMAS	12 Willis	16 Goodwin	
OLT	78 CLADY	75 Clark		
OLG	68 BEADLES	65 Ramirez		
C	50 WALTON	65 Ramirez	Blake*	
ORG	73 KUPER	Blake*		
ORT	74 FRANKLIN	76 Hills		
TE	81 DREESSEN	Tamme	80 J. Thomas	
WR	87 DECKER	17 Caldwell	14 Stokley	
QB	18 MANNING	16 Hanie	Osweiler*	
RB	23 McGAHEE	Hillman*	35 Ball	
FB	37 J. JOHNSON	40 Sylvester		
	DEFENSE			
DLE	91 AYERS	93 Beal		
DT	97 DRAPAUN	Wolfe*	Jackson*	
NT	99 VICKERSON	94 Warren	95 Jarmon	
DRE	92 DUMERVIL	90 Hunter		
LOLB	58 V. MILLER	57 Haggan	Trevathan*	
MLB	51 MAYS	57 Haggan	56 Irving	
ROLB	52 WOODYARD	55 Williams		
LCB	24 BAILEY	41 Vaughn	Bolden*	
RCB	29 PORTER	25 C. Harris	36 Bush	
SS	20 ADAMS	26 R. Moore		
FS	28 Q. CARTER	30 Bruton		
	SPECIALISTS			
P	4 COLQUITT			
PK	5 PRATER			
H	4 COLQUITT			
PR	87 DECKER			
KR	12 WILLIS	41 Vaughn		
LS	66 PAXTON			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Clancy Barone, tight ends; Keith Burns, asst. special teams; Brian Callahan, quality control/offense; Jack Del Rio, defensive coordinator; John Fox, head coach; Adam Gase, quarterbacks; Sam Garnes, asst. secondary; Jason George, strength and conditioning assistant; Anthony Lomando, asst. strength and conditioning; Dave Magazu, offensive line; Mike McCoy, offensive coordinator; Ron Milus, secondary; Wayne Nunnely, defensive line; Luke Richardson, strength and conditioning; Jay Rodgers, quality control/defense; Jeff Rodgers, special-teams coordinator; Richard Smith, linebackers; Eric Studesville, running backs; Tyke Tolbert, wide receivers.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
20	Adams, Mike	S	5-11	200	9	Delaware	16/16
91	Ayers, Robert	DE	6-3	274	4	Tennessee	16/13
24	Bailey, Champ	CB	6-0	192	14	Georgia	13/13
35	Ball, Lance	RB	5-9	215	4	Maryland	16/0
97	Bannan, Justin	DT	6-3	312	11	Colorado	15/14
68	Beadles, Zane	OG	6-4	305	3	Utah	16/16
93	Beal, Jeremy	DE	6-3	276	1	Oklahoma	0/0
	Blake, Philip	OG-C	6-2	311	R	Baylor	
	Blatnick, Jamie	DE	6-3	265	R	Oklahoma State	
	Bolden, Omar	CB	5-10	195	R	Arizona State	
	Brewer, Aaron	LS	6-2	225	R	San Diego State	
30	Bruton, David	S	6-2	217	4	Notre Dame	15/1
36	Bush, Rafael	CB	5-11	200	3	South Carolina State	6/0
17	Caldwell, Andre	WR	6-0	190	5	Florida	13/2
28	Carter, Quinton	S	6-1	200	2	Oklahoma	16/10
32	Carter, Tony	CB	5-9	175	3	Florida State	3/0
78	Clady, Ryan	OT	6-6	315	5	Boise State	16/16
75	Clark, Chris	OT	6-5	305	3	Southern Mississippi	16/6
	Coffey, Elliot	LB	6-0	235	R	Baylor	
4	Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	205	4	Tennessee	16/0
71	Davis, C.J.	OG	6-2	308	3	Pittsburgh	0/0
87	Decker, Eric	WR	6-3	218	3	Minnesota	16/13
15	Dell, Mark	WR	6-2	195	1	Michigan State	0/0
81	Dreessen, Joel	TE	6-4	245	7	Colorado State	16/10
92	Dumervil, Elvis	DE	5-11	260	7	Louisville	14/14
42	Fannin, Mario	RB	5-11	224	1	Auburn	0/0
	Franklin, Jerry	LB	6-1	245	R	Arkansas	
74	Franklin, Orlando	OT	6-7	330	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
63	Garland, Ben	DT	6-5	275	1	Air Force	0/0
16	Goodwin, D'Andre	WR	5-11	188	1	Washington	0/0
67	Grant, Adam	OT	6-6	325	1	Arizona	0/0
85	Green, Virgil	TE	6-5	252	2	Nevada	15/3
13	Grisham, Tyler	WR	5-11	180	1	Clemson	0/0
16	Hanie, Caleb	QB	6-2	222	5	Colorado State	6/4
25	Harris, Chris	CB	5-10	190	2	Kansas	16/4
72	Harris, Ryan	OT	6-5	300	6	Notre Dame	0/0
83	Hill, Jason	WR	6-0	202	6	Washington State	10/10
	Hillman, Ronnie	RB	5-8	200	R	San Diego State	
76	Hills, Tony	OT	6-5	304	5	Texas	0/0
90	Hunter, Jason	DE	6-4	271	7	Appalachian State	16/2
	Ihenacho, Duke	S	6-1	205	R	San Jose State	
84	Ingram, Cornelius	TE	6-4	250	3	Florida	0/0
56	Irving, Nate	MLB	6-1	240	2	North Carolina State	16/0
	Jackson, Malik	DT	6-4	284	R	Tennessee	
95	Jarmon, Jeremy	DT	6-3	286	4	Kentucky	0/0
37	Johnson, Jeremiah	RB	5-9	200	3	Oregon	8/0
	Johnson, Steven	LB	6-1	237	R	Kansas	
	Judie, Coryell	CB	5-11	190	R	Texas A&M	
73	Kuper, Chris	OG	6-4	303	7	North Dakota	16/16
18	Manning, Peyton	QB	6-5	230	14	Tennessee	0/0
51	Mays, Joe	MLB	5-11	250	5	North Dakota State	16/12
23	McGahee, Willis	RB	6-0	235	10	Miami (Fla.)	15/14
	Miller, Anthony	TE	6-4	260	R	California	
58	Miller, Von	SLB	6-3	237	2	Texas A&M	15/15
53	Mohamed, Mike	MLB	6-3	245	2	California	2/0
31	Moore, Joshua	DB	5-11	183	2	Kansas State	0/0
26	Moore, Rahim	S	6-1	196	2	UCLA	15/7
27	Moreno, Knowshon	RB	5-11	200	4	Georgia	7/2
54	Obiozor, Cyril	LB	6-4	249	3	Texas A&M	0/0
33	Omon, Xavier	RB	5-11	227	3	Northwest Missouri St.	0/0
14	Orton, Greg	WR	6-3	199	2	Purdue	0/0
	Osweiler, Brock	QB	6-7	242	R	Arizona State	
	Page, Eric	WR	5-10	180	R	Toledo	
66	Paxton, Lonie	LS	6-2	270	12	Sacramento State	16/0
29	Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	186	5	Indiana	14/11
5	Prater, Matt	PK	5-10	195	6	UCF	16/0
65	Ramirez, Manny	OG-C	6-3	313	5	Texas Tech	2/0
	Remmers, Mike	OT	6-5	303	R	Oregon State	
	Robinson, Gerell	WR	6-4	222	R	Arizona State	
38	Robinson, Ramzee	CB	5-10	190	4	Alabama	0/0
93	Siliga, Sealver	DT	6-2	307	1	Utah	1/1
14	Stokley, Brandon	WR	6-0	192	14	Southwestern Louisiana	2/0
40	Sylvester, Austin	FB	6-1	248	1	Washington	0/0
	Tamme, Jacob	TE	6-3	236	5	Kentucky	16/5
88	Thomas, Demaryius	WR	6-3	229	3	Georgia Tech	11/5
80	Thomas, Julius	TE	6-5	255	2	Portland State	5/1
22	Thompson, Syd'Quan	CB	5-9	191	3	California	0/0
82	Toone, Tim	WR	5-10	185	2	Weber State	0/0
	Trevathan, Danny	LB	6-0	237	R	Kentucky	
	Tribue, Wayne	OG	6-3	329	R	Temple	
96	Unrein, Mitch	DT	6-4	291	2	Wyoming	14/0
41	Vaughn, Cassius	CB	5-11	195	3	Mississippi	9/3
99	Vickerson, Kevin	DT	6-5	290	7	Michigan State	5/4
50	Walton, J.D.	C	6-3	305	3	Baylor	16/16
94	Warren, Ty	DT	6-5	300	10	Texas A&M	0/0
2	Weber, Adam	QB	6-3	221	1	Minnesota	0/0
55	Williams, D.J.	WLB	6-1	242	9	Miami (Fla.)	13/13
12	Willis, Matthew	WR	6-0	190	5	UCLA	16/0
	Wolfe, Derek	DT	6-5	295	R	Cincinnati	
52	Woodyard, Wesley	WLB	6-0	229	5	Kentucky	15/7
	Wuebbels, Austin	OG	6-4	295	R	Missouri	

opponent's skin. Rookie CB Omar Bolden and third-year pro Cassius Vaughn both have talent to be eventual starters, though each has serious durability concerns. Second-year FS Quinton Carter will see an expanded role after starting 10 games as a rookie. The heir apparent to Brian Dawkins, who retired, Carter is a big hitter in the run game who must improve as a pass defender. The Broncos added ex-Browns SS Mike Adams in free agency. He is expected to start ahead of second-year SS Rahim Moore, who appeared lost as a rookie. Adams is a rock-solid player who does nothing great but won't be burned by a bad mistake, either.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicking in the thin Rocky Mountain air gives both PK Matt Prater and P Britton Colquitt an advantage. Prater, who was given the franchise tag at the start of the offseason, showed off his big leg in 2011. He led the NFL by recording touchbacks on 68.1 percent of his kickoffs and was solid from long distance on field goals. Prater must improve his mid-range kicks, however, to justify the big contract he's seeking. Colquitt topped the league in punting yards and showed good touch, often pinning opponents inside their 20. There are open jobs at the kickoff and punt returner spots. Cassius Vaughn, Matthew Willis and Eric Decker are expected to compete for the jobs.

SUMMARY

Nobody expected the Broncos to finish 8-8, win the AFC West and shock the Steelers in the playoffs in 2011. Nor did many people predict the signing of Peyton Manning and the trade of Tim Tebow. Now, for the first time since John Elway was quarterbacking the team, the Broncos have preseason Super Bowl expectations. Head coach John Fox's no-nonsense approach won over the roster last season, and despite being outplayed often a year ago, the team rallied to produce several impressive wins. Now, with a legit QB under center, Fox will again have to get his players to play above their talent level to live up to the hype.

2 KANSAS CITY Chiefs

2012 PREDICTION: 9-7 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 7-9 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

R. CRENNEL

HEAD COACH: Romeo Crennel
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brian Dabol
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Romeo Crennel
OWNER: Clark Hunt
STADIUM: Arrowhead Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 76,451
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.kcchiefs.com

Despite a late push that almost ended with a miraculous playoff berth, the Chiefs' 2011 campaign will be remembered more for early-season injuries and a midseason coaching change than the late-season rally. Kansas City had a turbulent ride through its schedule a year ago and will be looking for a smoother journey this season.

The key to that will be staying healthy, something the team couldn't do in 2011. Last season, the team suffered three devastating injuries — to TE Tony Moeaki, SS Eric Berry and finally RB Jamaal Charles — before halftime of its Week Two game. All three were lost for the year with ACL tears. A few weeks later, starting QB Matt Cassel was placed on injured reserve with a hand injury, forcing the unproven Tyler Palko to take over.

This offseason, GM Scott Pioli made it a priority to improve the team's depth of talent in case the injury bug bites the Chiefs once again. Backups for Moeaki, Charles and Cassel were added, along with offensive line reinforcements to try to keep defenders off the team's key pieces. On defense, Pioli rolled the dice on NT Dontari Poe in the first round of the draft, hoping Poe's exceptional talent can make the difference up front.

There is also more stability on the sideline, with Romeo Crennel taking over as head coach after replacing Todd Haley on an interim basis last season. Crennel is well-respected by the front office and the players, and his calm approach could be the difference in leading K.C. back to the playoffs.

TUSP

TAMBA HALI

OFFENSE

Following a plethora of devastating injuries in 2011, the Chiefs improved their offensive depth during the offseason. This should benefit new offensive coordinator Brian Daboll. After working for the Browns and Dolphins the past two years, Daboll brings an offense to Kansas City based on a productive ground game and safe passes. With two quality running backs and two pass-catching tight ends — along with a trio of big-play receivers — at his disposal, Daboll looks to make the Kansas City attack balanced and difficult for opponents to defend.

QUARTERBACKS

Nobody doubts Matt Cassel's toughness, but a patchwork offensive line in 2011 was too much for him to overcome. Cassel missed the final seven games of last season after being placed on injured reserve with a broken hand, suffered during the last of the 22 sacks he took. Following surgery, the seven-year vet is back and ready to go, cementing his spot as the team's starter when Kyle Orton opted not to re-sign. Cassel's completion percentage has risen in each of the three seasons he has played in Kansas City, up to 59.5 percent in 2011. However Cassel's interception percentage almost doubled, an issue Daboll will look to correct. Brady Quinn, a former first-round pick of the Browns when Romeo Crennel was the head coach in Cleveland, takes over as Cassel's backup after

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

TE Kevin Boss, RB Peyton Hillis, QB Brady Quinn, CB Stanford Routt, OT Eric Winston.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

CB Brandon Carr, RB Thomas Jones, FB Le'Ron McClain, QB Kyle Orton.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
WR Dwayne Bowe

DEFENSIVE MVP
LB Derrick Johnson

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
FS Kendrick Lewis

POSITION BATTLE
TE: Tony Moeaki vs. Kevin Boss

D. BOWE

D. JOHNSON

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C	B+	B-	B-	C+	B+	B	B-

the failed experiment a year ago with Tyler Palko. Quinn has a strong arm and good athleticism but hasn't thrown a pass during a regular-season game since Week 15 of the 2009 season. Ricky Stanzi, a fifth-round pick in 2011, is a developmental project and is unlikely to see the field much.

RUNNING BACKS

In 2010, RB Jamaal Charles broke off 17 plays of 20 yards or longer. Unfortunately, in 2011, the only thing Charles broke was his left ACL in Week Two. That deprived the team of a back who averaged 7.04 yards every time he touched the ball in '10. Rehab has gone well for Charles, and the team is hopeful he can return to his All-Pro form of two years ago. A fast, shifty back with terrific vision and the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield, Charles fits well in Daboll's scheme, though he isn't an every-down player. He will share time in the backfield with free-agent addition Peyton Hillis, who is coming off a down year with the Browns. A straight-ahead runner who is more likely to run through defenders than run around them, Hillis saw huge drops across the board in '11 from his standout season in 2010. A contract dispute and hamstring injuries limited his production last season, but he knows Daboll's offense well and thrived in it previously. That gives the Chiefs a strong hope that Charles and Hillis can form a devastating 1-2 punch. Rookie Cyrus Gray will make his greatest immediate impact on special teams. He can catch the ball out of the backfield and has a hardworking attitude, which makes up for his upright running style and lack of breakaway speed.

RECEIVERS

Star WR Dwayne Bowe did all he could in 2011 despite playing with a backup quarterback for part of the season, a depleted running game and a rotating cast of No. 2 wideouts. For the most part, Bowe matched his numbers from his Pro Bowl season in '10 with one major difference — a decrease from 15 touchdowns to five. The physical Bowe, who was given the franchise tag in the offseason, remains the team's top target, though he must cut down on his drops (12) to become an elite pass catcher. Jon Baldwin, a first-rounder in '11, missed the start of the season because of a preseason hand injury, but he came on late. Built in the same mold as Bowe, Baldwin will be expected to take major steps forward, especially as a downfield target for Matt Cassel. In the slot will be Steve Breaston, a fast and dynamic playmaker who gained first downs on 64 percent of his receptions last season. The three receivers will play a good amount of time, but they will be joined by two pass-catching tight ends. Third-year pro Tony Moeaki was great as a rookie in 2010 but missed all of his sophomore campaign because of a torn ACL in the preseason. He needs to improve his run blocking. He will be pushed for playing time by Kevin Boss, a solid over-the-middle target with soft hands and the ability to gain yards after contact. Dexter McCluster, an undersized receiver who also doubles as a part-time running back, is dynamic with the ball in his hands when he can find open space in which to run. Rookie WRs Devon Wylie and Junior Hemingway could see snaps in the slot as Breaston's backups. Wylie has terrific speed and is dangerous after the catch. Hemingway is a big, competitive receiver with strong hands.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A weak spot a year ago, the Chiefs are hopeful that making the line more athletic will improve the unit as a whole. The biggest addition is ORT Eric Winston, a free-agent signing from the Texans who adds massive size, along with impressive strength and good agility. OLT Branden Albert is an athletic pass protector who allowed five sacks last season, according to STATS LLC, but he has underachieved as a run blocker, according to some scouts. C Rodney Hudson, a second-round pick last year, didn't play much as a rookie. He is a bit undersized for the position but makes up for it by being technically sound. At right guard is Jon Asamoah, who did a solid job in his first season as a starter a year ago. An athletic blocker, Asamoah is able to get to the second level on blocks and rarely commits penalties. Veteran OLG Ryan Lilja has always been a solid run blocker and has improved as a pass protector in recent seasons. His job might be lost quickly to second-round rookie Jeff Allen, a converted tackle who has terrific balance and coordination and consistently gets the job done. Third-round OT Donald Stephenson is a mountain of a man who must improve his work ethic before earning a starting job, but he boasts outstanding foot quickness and agility.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	San Diego	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	BYE	
Oct. 28	Oakland	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 1	at San Diego	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 12	at Pittsburgh	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 18	Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Denver	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Oakland	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 23	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Denver	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Kansas City

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Buffalo	(-4)	7-41
Sept. 18	At Detroit	(+8)	3-48
Sept. 25	At San Diego	(+14)	17-20
Oct. 2	Minnesota	(+3)	22-17
Oct. 9	At Indianapolis	(+1.5)	28-24
Oct. 16	BYE		
Oct. 23	At Oakland	(+3.5)	28-0
Oct. 31	San Diego	(+3)	23-20*
Nov. 6	Miami	(-5.5)	3-31
Nov. 13	Denver	(-3)	10-17
Nov. 21	At New England	(+17)	3-34
Nov. 27	Pittsburgh	(+10.5)	9-13
Dec. 4	At Chicago	(+8.5)	10-3
Dec. 11	At New York Jets	(+10.5)	10-37
Dec. 18	Green Bay	(+11)	19-14
Dec. 24	Oakland	(-3)	13-16*
Jan. 1	At Denver	(+2)	7-3

* Overtime

DEFENSE

Though he's now the head coach, Romeo Crennel still will be calling the shots on defense. The team runs the 3-4 scheme that Crennel has mastered over the years, and the unit is led by two standout linebackers. OLB Tamba Hali has emerged as one of the league's top pass rushers, recording 26½ sacks over the past two seasons, while also becoming a physical presence against the run. ILB Derrick Johnson is an outstanding defender who came up with several big plays in important wins for the Chiefs in 2011. The Chiefs' "D" wasn't fully healthy a year ago, especially after losing Pro Bowl SS Eric Berry in Week One, but Crennel is hoping that with more depth and another year in the scheme, Kansas City can emerge as one of the NFL's top

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**BUFF.**	**@DET.**	**@S.D.**	**MINN.**	**@IND.**	**@OAK.**	**S.D.**	**MIA.**	**DEN.**	**@N.E.**	**PITT.**	**@CHI.**	**@N.Y.J.**	**G.B.**	**OAK.**	**@DEN.**	
Score	7-41	3-48	17-20	22-17	28-24	28-0	23-20	3-31	10-17	3-34	9-13	10-3	10-37	19-14	13-16	7-3	
Total net yards	213	267	252	350	436	300	341	343	258	334	252	252	221	438	435	281	4973
Rushing yards	108	151	81	103	194	139	94	116	134	125	90	113	65	139	135	106	1893
Passing yards	105	116	171	247	242	161	247	227	124	209	162	139	156	299	300	175	3080
Rushing plays	18	29	27	28	38	39	32	34	24	27	34	37	21	39	30	30	487
Sacks allowed	2	2	1	3	2	0	3	5	4	3	1	2	5	0	0	1	34
Had intercepted	1	3	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	2	0	18
Fumbles lost	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	10
Yards penalized	3	70	65	57	39	98	53	70	40	34	20	60	128	55	88	36	916
Punts	8	5	4	3	6	7	5	5	7	5	3	11	7	2	3	8	89

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	37:02	32:24	34:43	32:10	26:53	26:23	32:15	25:21	33:38	28:30	33:30	27:18	37:42	23:49	28:31	32:58	30:50
Total net yards	364	411	375	341	355	322	447	351	313	380	290	181	314	315	308	266	5333
Rushing yards	163	89	117	151	78	155	102	107	244	157	108	93	159	102	71	216	2112
Passing yards	201	322	258	190	277	167	345	244	69	223	182	88	155	213	237	50	3221
Rushing plays	39	30	30	30	27	27	27	24	55	35	28	24	42	18	25	47	508
Sacks allowed	1	0	2	2	0	1	3	0	0	3	1	7	3	4	0	2	29
Had intercepted	1	1	2	1	0	6	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	1	20
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	6
Yards penalized	30	35	40	45	40	120	105	49	65	20	50	35	22	37	92	49	834
Punts	5	5	2	4	5	6	3	5	7	4	5	7	7	5	4	9	83

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Battle	2-7-0	2-6-0	1-2-0	5-22-0	19-119-0	16-76-0	19-70-1	14-40-0	9-61-0	8-33-0	9-20-0	11-15-0	10-33-0	10-37-1	14-56-0		149-597-2
Cassel			1-1-0	4-20-0	5-12-0	2-(-2)-0	2-14-0	9-38-0	2-16-0								25-99-0
Charles	10-56-0	2-27-0															12-83-0
Jones	2-3-0	12-40-0	14-31-0	11-37-0	10-55-0	9-19-0	5-10-0	3-5-0	4-4-0	8-48-0	13-37-0	16-36-0	5-12-0	15-48-0	11-51-0	15-42-0	153-478-0
McCluster	4-42-0	8-51-0	9-45-0	7-26-0	4-8-0	10-38-0	6-0-0	7-36-0	8-45-0	9-45-0	9-28-0	9-61-0	4-1-0	5-14-0	3-15-0	12-61-1	114-516-1

PASSING **

Cassel	22-36-1 119-1	15-22-3 133-0	17-24-1 176-2	18-29-0 260-1	21-29-0 257-4	15-30-2 161-0	19-32-2 261-1	20-39-0 253-0	13-28-0 93-1								160-269-9 1713-10
Orton												0-1-0 0-0		23-31-0 299-0	21-36-2 300-1	15-29-0 180-0	59-97-2 779-1
Palko		0-1-0 0-0							5-6-0 47-0	24-37-3 230-0	18-28-3 167-0	17-30-0 157-1	16-32-1 195-1				80-134-7 796-2

RECEIVING

Baldwin						1-14-0	5-82-1	1-12-0	1-15-0	3-16-0	2-26-0	1-7-0	2-28-0	1-17-0	1-10-0	3-27-0	21-254-1
Battle	1-(-1)-0		1-3-0		2-21-0			1-9-0		1-3-0			2-26-0	1-7-0			9-68-0
Bowe	2-17-0	5-101-0	4-67-1	5-107-1	7-128-2	6-76-0	4-62-0	6-88-0	2-17-0	7-87-0	7-69-0	4-49-0	6-69-0	4-49-0	6-80-1	6-93-0	81-1159-5
Breaston	2-26-0	1-7-0	3-55-0	4-91-0	4-50-2	5-64-0	3-42-0	7-115-0	4-33-0	6-73-0	4-44-0	5-41-0	4-44-0	4-50-0	4-41-0	1-9-0	61-785-2
Colbert	2-8-0			3-33-0	2-24-0		1-19-0	1-5-0									9-89-0
Copper					1-9-0							1-10-0		2-20-0	3-61-0	1-14-0	8-114-0
L. McClain		2-12-0		1-7-0		1-4-0	2-17-0	1-4-0	2-9-1			1-3-0		4-26-0			14-82-1
McCluster	5-25-0	4-(-2)-0	5-17-0	3-12-0	1-10-0	1-(-3)-0	3-28-0	1-8-0	6-48-0	1-3-0	2-11-0	4-46-1		2-11-0	5-89-0	3-25-0	46-328-1
Pope	3-24-0	2-9-0	3-32-1	1-4-0	2-8-0		1-11-0	1-9-0	3-18-0	3-26-0	1-9-0			2-72-0	1-13-0	1-12-0	24-247-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

defenses.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Chiefs don't ask their line to do much when it comes to pass rushing. Their job is to play the run and occupy blockers so the linebackers can roam free and make plays. Currently, the best lineman on the roster is DRE Glenn Dorsey, who has come into his own after a slow start to his career. Dorsey has the ability to push around blockers given his exceptional strength, and playing the five-technique, he is required in the scheme to seal the edge of the line. DLE Tyson Jackson is also a physical run blocker who has also overcome a rough start to his career. Jackson had a career-high 55 tackles in 2011 and is a good complement to Dorsey. Between the two is the team's first-round pick, Dontari Poe, a 346-pound wrecking ball. The team envisions Poe, who has the strength to collapse the pocket and the agility to clog running lanes, to be a Day One starter and future All-Pro player. He's still raw, however, and it might take him time to learn the game. Amon Gordon, who can play either tackle or end, is a marginal talent who is just OK vs. the run. Reserve DE Allen Bailey showed flashes in his rookie season that he will be a strong run defender, thanks in large part to his great upper-body strength. He will see an expanded role this season backing up both Dorsey and Jackson.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Dontari Poe	NT	Memphis	11
2	Jeff Allen	OL	Illinois	44
3	Donald Stephenson	OT	Oklahoma	74
4	Devon Wylie	WR	Fresno State	107
5	DeQuan Menzie	DB	Alabama	146
6	Cyrus Gray	RB	Texas A&M	182
7	Jerome Long	DT	San Diego State	218
7	Junior Hemingway	WR	Michigan	238

D. POE

LINEBACKERS

Playing the 3-4 means asking a lot of the LB corps, both vs. the pass and the run. The Chiefs are strong on the second level, led by the heart and soul of the defense, ILB Derrick Johnson, who is coming off a career year in which he emerged as one of the league's top defenders. Smart, instinctive and a sure tackler, Johnson always seemed to be in the right place at the right time. Fellow ILB Jovan Belcher is also a solid run defender but doesn't have the speed or playmaking skills of Johnson. Coaches love the fact that Belcher always gives maximum effort. ROLB Tamba Hali is the team's top pass rusher. Blessed with a unique combination of strength and speed, Hali is able to bull-rush his way through opposing blockers as easily as he can run around them. His ability to fight through double-teams also makes life easier for Johnson to go sideline-to-sideline. Second-year OLB Justin Houston rounds out the starting lineup. After not seeing the field much early in his rookie season, Houston came on late, recording 5½ sacks over his final five games. He has good pass-rush skills but must improve in pass coverage to be an every-down player. Reserves Andy Studebaker and Brandon Siler are solid fill-ins and smart players who could battle for starting jobs in camp.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Despite losing starting RCB Brandon Carr in free agency, the secondary as a whole should be better than the one that took the field most of last season. SS Eric Berry tore his ACL on the first series of the first game, but the 2010 fifth overall pick has rehabbed well and is set to go. With outstanding speed and great awareness, Berry can make a major impact both in the box as a run stuffer and deep in pass coverage. His absence forced FS Kendrick Lewis to take on a greater role, and Lewis responded with 60 tackles and three interceptions. After playing cornerback in college, hard-hitting rookie DeQuan Menzie will move to safety or nickel back in the pros. Ex-Raider Stanford Routt replaces Carr at right cornerback. Routt has good speed and can play bump-and-run but committed

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	**82 BOWE**	15 Breaston	88 Hemingway*
OLT	**76 ALBERT**	79 Stephenson*	
OLG	**65 LILJA**	71 Allen*	70 Mims
C	**61 HUDSON**	60 Bruggeman	
ORG	**73 ASAMOAH**	70 Mims	
ORT	**74 WINSTON**	87 Maneri	70 Mims
TE	**81 MOEAKI**	80 Boss	85 O'Connell
WR	**89 BALDWIN**	22 McCluster	83 Wylie*
QB	**7 CASSEL**	9 Quinn	12 Stanzi
RB	**25 CHARLES**	40 Hillis	42 Gray*
FB	**38 BANNON**		
DEFENSE			
DLE	**94 JACKSON**	97 Bailey	60 Long*
NT	**92 POE***	99 Gordon	95 Powe
DRE	**72 DORSEY**	51 Miller	77 Patterson
LOLB	**50 HOUSTON**	96 Studebaker	
LILB	**59 BELCHER**	52 Siler	
RILB	**56 D. JOHNSON**	93 Greenwood	
ROLB	**91 HALI**	55 Sheffield	
LCB	**24 FLOWERS**	21 Arenas	35 Reeves
RCB	**26 ROUTT**	34 Daniels	30 Brown
SS	**29 BERRY**	27 Washington	
FS	**23 LEWIS**	49 Menzie*	39 Baker
SPECIALISTS			
P	**2 COLQUITT**		
PK	**6 SUCCOP**		
H	**2 COLQUITT**		
PR	**21 ARENAS**	83 Wylie*	
KR	**22 McCLUSTER**	21 Arenas	83 Wylie*
LS	**43 GAFFORD**		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Jack Bicknell Jr., offensive line; Maurice Carthon, asst. head coach; Mike Clark, strength and conditioning; Jim Bob Cooter, offensive quality control; Romeo Crennel, head coach/defensive coordinator; Brian Daboll, offensive coordinator; Gary Gibbs, linebackers; Tom McMahon, special teams; Bernie Parmalee, tight ends; Anthony Pleasant, defensive line; Brent Salazar, asst. strength and conditioning; Nick Sirianni, offensive quality control; Otis Smith, defensive quality control; Steven Smith, asst. offensive line; Derius Swinton, special-teams quality control; Emmitt Thomas, defensive backs; Adam Zimmer, defensive assistant/asst. linebackers; Jim Zorn, quarterbacks.

way too many penalties last season (17) and is a liability on deep balls. LCB Brandon Flowers struggled against elite wideouts early in 2011, although he came on strong late. Despite standing just 5-foot-9, Flowers is a fantastic on-ball defender who plays bigger than his size. Backups Travis Daniels and Javier Arenas both have good speed but lack the coverage skills to be counted on to shut down opposing playmakers.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Ryan Succop, a former Mr. Irrelevant, is the key to the special teams. He is consistent and solid, making 22 consecutive field goals at one point during the 2011 season. Succop also delivered when it mattered most, making 10-of-11 kicks in the second half or overtime of games last year. P Dustin Colquitt has a strong leg and does a good job pinning opponents close to their own endzone while avoiding touchbacks. In the return game, both Javier Arenas and Dexter McCluster have exceptional speed. Arenas, who handles both punts and kickoffs, frequently gives the team solid field position. Meanwhile, KR McCluster can break big gains but also has fumbling issues. Rookie Devon Wylie may battle for both jobs.

SUMMARY

They didn't do anything flashy this offseason, but the sum of the Chiefs' parts might be enough to push them back to the playoffs after just missing out a year ago. GM Scott Pioli made the bold move last season to fire head coach Todd Haley, sensing that the laid-back Romeo Crennel was a better fit to run the team than the aggressive Haley. Pioli then added depth at key positions and rounded out the roster by drafting rookies who will make an impact both this season and in the future. NT Dontari Poe has bust potential, but the odds are just as good that he'll be a dominant force and exactly what the defense needed. Assuming the team's luck on brutal injuries has turned around after last season's onslaught, the Chiefs should be in the division race to the very end.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
76	Albert, Branden	OT	6-5	316	5	Virginia	16/16
71	Allen, Jeff	OL	6-4	306	R	Illinois	
21	Arenas, Javier	CB	5-9	197	3	Alabama	15/1
73	Asamoah, Jon	OG	6-4	305	3	Illinois	16/16
97	Bailey, Allen	DE	6-3	285	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/0
90	Bair, Brandon	DL	6-7	272	2	Oregon	0/0
39	Baker, Mikail	S	6-0	200	1	Baylor	0/0
89	Baldwin, Jon	WR	6-4	230	2	Pittsburgh	11/3
38	Bannon, Shane	FB	6-3	245	1	Yale	0/0
59	Belcher, Jovan	LB	6-2	228	4	Maine	16/16
	Bellamy, Josh	WR	6-0	206	R	Louisville	
29	Berry, Eric	S	6-0	211	3	Tennessee	1/1
80	Boss, Kevin	TE	6-6	255	6	Western Oregon	14/11
	Biere, Tim	TE	6-4	260	R	Kansas	
82	Bowe, Dwayne	WR	6-2	221	6	LSU	16/16
15	Breaston, Steve	WR	6-0	189	6	Michigan	16/1
30	Brown, Jalil	CB	6-1	205	2	Colorado	14/0
60	Bruggeman, Rob	C	6-4	293	1	Iowa	1/0
57	Campbell, Caleb	LB	6-2	237	1	Army	0/0
7	Cassel, Matt	QB	6-4	230	8	USC	9/9
25	Charles, Jamaal	RB	5-11	199	5	Texas	2/1
	Cheadle, Justin	OL	6-2	290	R	California	
2	Colquitt, Dustin	P	6-3	210	8	Tennessee	16/0
10	Copper, Terrance	WR	6-0	207	9	East Carolina	16/2
34	Daniels, Travis	CB	6-1	195	6	LSU	16/0
72	Dorsey, Glenn	DE	6-1	297	5	LSU	15/15
32	Draughn, Shaun	RB	6-0	205	1	North Carolina	1/0
	Eachus, Nate	RB	5-10	212	R	Colgate	
	Fanor, Jean	DB	6-1	200	R	Bethune-Cookman	
	Fenner, Chandler	DB	6-1	189	R	Holy Cross	
24	Flowers, Brandon	CB	5-9	187	5	Virginia Tech	16/16
43	Gafford, Thomas	LS	6-2	250	5	Houston	16/0
	Gentry, Taylor	FB	6-2	250	R	North Carolina State	
99	Gordon, Amon	DL	6-2	305	6	Stanford	16/2
42	Gray, Cyrus	RB	5-10	198	R	Texas A&M	
93	Greenwood, Cory	LB	6-2	235	3	Concordia (Quebec)	16/0
91	Hali, Tamba	LB	6-3	275	7	Penn State	16/16
66	Harris, Darryl	OG	6-4	300	1	Mississippi	0/0
	Hartman, Tysyn	DB	6-3	206	R	Kansas State	
88	Hemingway, Junior	WR	6-1	222	R	Michigan	
	Heyman, Dexter	LB	6-3	238	R	Louisville	
40	Hillis, Peyton	RB	6-2	250	5	Arkansas	10/9
	Holland, Cam	OL	6-2	320	R	North Carolina	
11	Horne, Jeremy	WR	6-2	193	2	Massachusetts	9/0
50	Houston, Justin	LB	6-3	258	2	Georgia	16/10
61	Hudson, Rodney	C	6-2	299	2	Florida State	16/1
94	Jackson, Tyson	DE	6-4	296	4	LSU	16/14
56	Johnson, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	8	Texas	16/16
	Johnson, Ethan	DE	6-4	300	R	Notre Dame	
	Kinnie, Brandon	WR	6-3	220	R	Nebraska	
23	Lewis, Kendrick	S	6-0	198	3	Mississippi	16/16
65	Lilja, Ryan	OG	6-2	290	9	Kansas State	15/15
60	Long, Jerome	DT	6-5	285	R	San Diego State	
87	Maneri, Steve	TE-OT	6-6	290	2	Temple	6/1
5	Markshausen, Zeke	WR	5-11	185	1	Northwestern	0/0
41	McCarthy, Kyle	S	6-1	205	3	Notre Dame	4/0
22	McCluster, Dexter	WR-RB	5-8	170	3	Mississippi	16/3
49	Menzie, DeQuan	S	6-0	198	R	Alabama	
51	Miller, Gabe	DE	6-3	257	2	Oregon State	0/0
70	Mims, David	OL	6-8	335	1	Virginia Union	0/0
81	Moeaki, Tony	TE	6-3	252	3	Iowa	0/0
84	Newsome, Jamar	WR	6-1	201	1	UCF	0/0
85	O'Connell, Jake	TE	6-3	250	4	Miami (Ohio)	8/4
	Parks, Terrance	DB	6-2	218	R	Florida State	
77	Patterson, Luke	DL	6-4	295	1	Texas A&M	0/0
92	Poe, Dontari	NT	6-3	346	R	Memphis	
95	Powe, Jerrell	NT	6-2	335	2	Mississippi	1/0
9	Quinn, Brady	QB	6-3	235	6	Notre Dame	0/0
35	Reeves, Jacques	CB	5-11	188	7	Purdue	0/0
26	Routt, Stanford	CB	6-1	195	8	Houston	1615
55	Sheffield, Cameron	LB	6-2	257	3	Troy	16/1
52	Siler, Brandon	LB	6-2	239	6	Florida	0/0
12	Stanzi, Ricky	QB	6-4	228	2	Iowa	0/0
79	Stephenson, Donald	OT	6-6	307	R	Oklahoma	
96	Studebaker, Andy	LB	6-3	248	5	Wheaton (Ill.)	16/5
6	Succop, Ryan	PK	6-2	218	4	South Carolina	16/0
	Szymanski, Matt	PK	6-1	196	R	Rice	
	Thorpe, Neiko	CB	6-2	185	R	Auburn	
98	Toribio, Anthony	DT	6-1	315	2	Carson-Newman	0/0
27	Washington, Donald	S-CB	6-1	197	4	Ohio State	12/3
74	Winston, Eric	OT	6-7	302	7	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
83	Wylie, Devon	WR	5-10	186	R	Fresno State	

3 SAN DIEGO Chargers

2012 PREDICTION: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(SECOND PLACE IN AFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

N. TURNER

HEAD COACH: Norv Turner
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Hal Hunter
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: John Pagano
OWNER: Alex G. Spanos
STADIUM: Qualcomm Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 70,000
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.chargers.com

After years of starting slowly, only to recover late in the season to reach the playoffs, the Chargers flipped the script in 2011. The team started 4-1, entering their bye week as one of the best teams in the league. They then went on to lose six consecutive games, the franchise's longest winless stretch since a five-game losing streak to start the 2003 campaign. A late rally to 8-8 gave them a glimmer of playoff hope. However, it was too little, too late, as the Broncos won the AFC West because of a better record vs. common opponents than both the Chargers and Raiders.

San Diego now enters the 2012 season looking to return to the playoffs after two years away from the postseason and more pressure than ever on several key members of the organization. The jobs of both head coach Norv Turner and GM A.J. Smith were spared at the end of last season, but there is a growing belief they won't be as lucky if the team doesn't return to the postseason tournament.

QB Philip Rivers is also under scrutiny following a poor season. He threw 20 interceptions in '11 — five more than he had in any other season of his career — and also lost five fumbles. Usually clutch in the final minutes of fourth quarters, Rivers struggled when it mattered most, failing to win games that would have pushed the Chargers into the playoffs.

Turner, Smith and Rivers hope that the Chargers can flip the script yet again and rebound from a tough year to reach the playoffs.

VISUAL IMAGE, INC.
ERIC WEDDLE

OFFENSE

Clarence Shelmon has retired and Hal Hunter has taken over as offensive coordinator, but this is still Norv Turner's show. The head coach calls the plays on offense, and his pass-first vertical scheme is a great fit for QB Philip Rivers. Equipped with a deep stable of pass catchers and a strong running game, Rivers can air it out with the best of them and has the accuracy to fit passes into tight windows. Protection issues were a problem a year ago, and turnovers were a problem Rivers vowed to fix in 2012.

QUARTERBACKS

It was a trying 2011 season for QB Philip Rivers, as poor play from his teammates and himself resulted in some tough losses for the Chargers. Rivers tended to force throws in the fourth quarter of games, a habit he will look to break this season. One of the league's more naturally gifted throwers, Rivers has a strong arm and generally has great accuracy despite an awkward delivery. He is able to locate receivers all over the field, mainly staying in the pocket to do so. San Diego works out of the shotgun for the most part, and Rivers' size allows him to scan defenses and make proper reads. The 30-year-old is also as durable as they come, having started 96 consecutive games despite taking a combined 68 sacks the past two seasons. The Chargers brought back Charlie Whitehurst to be the backup after having traded him to the Seahawks in '10. Whitehurst looks the part but has struggled

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

SS Atari Bigby, OLB Jarret Johnson, FB Le'Ron McClain, WR Robert Meachem, WR Roscoe Parrish, WR Eddie Royal.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

OG Kris Dielman, S Steve Gregory, WR Vincent Jackson, OT Marcus McNeill, RB Mike Tolbert.

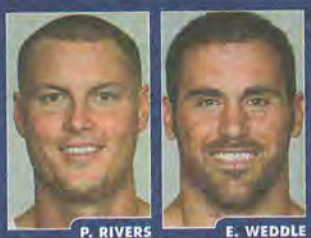
PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Philip Rivers

DEFENSIVE MVP
FS Eric Weddle

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
WR Robert Meachem

POSITION BATTLE
PK: Nate Kaeding vs. Nick Novak



QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B+	B-	B	C-	C+	B+	B	B

with accuracy throughout his career.

RUNNING BACKS

Starting RB Ryan Mathews enters his third NFL season coming off a terrific 2011 campaign that ended with his first career trip to the Pro Bowl. A perfect fit for the offense because of his versatility, Mathews is a threat both as a runner and receiver. He gained 4.9 yards per rushing attempt and 9.1 yards per catch last season, good for more than 1,500 yards from scrimmage. Though he lacks breakaway speed, Mathews' terrific balance and vision make him tough to bring down. Fumbles are an issue, however, which is why the team signed FB Le'Ron McClain to be a goal-line back. McClain is a powerful runner who can drag opponents with him into the endzone. He is also a terrific blocker and has decent hands, meaning he could see some snaps as the third-down back. RB Curtis Brinkley rarely saw the field in '11 and likely will have to fight off strong, tough rookie Edwin Baker to keep his roster spot.

RECEIVERS

Part of the reason the Chargers' offense is so successful on a regular basis is that the team is great at spreading the ball around. In 2011, five different targets had 43 or more receptions, with none having more than 64 catches. It is with that approach in mind that the team allowed high-priced WR Vincent Jackson to leave in free agency and replaced him with Robert Meachem, Eddie Royal and Roscoe Parrish. All three free-agent additions have skill sets perfectly suited for the Chargers' offense, and combined, they should have no problem matching or exceeding the production Jackson provided. Meachem will line up on the outside, and with great size and the ability to run by defenders, he will be expected to be one of Philip Rivers' top downfield threats. Royal, who has good quickness, will share slot duties with second-year WR Vincent Brown, who must improve his route running after a solid rookie season. The injury-prone Parrish was signed mainly for depth. Malcom Floyd lines up across from Meachem, and he, too, is a downfield target. However, the lanky Floyd struggles against top cover corners and is too inconsistent to be a true No. 1 wideout. At tight end, the Chargers still have one of the NFL's best in Antonio Gates. Though a toe injury slowed him down for part of the '11 season, Gates still managed to gain more than 12 yards per reception and score seven touchdowns. With his foot speed decreasing, Gates uses his large frame and exceptional knowledge of defenses to get open and create mismatches. Reserve Randy McMichael is primarily a blocker in two-TE sets. Rookie Ladarius Green, who has receiver-like qualities and vine-like arms, will serve as Gates' understudy.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Injuries forced the retirement of OLG Kris Dielman and the release of OLT Marcus McNeill, so the Chargers have made some changes up front. Jared Gaither takes McNeill's spot at left tackle full time after replacing him at the end of last season. Standing 6-foot-9, Gaither can wall off opponents and create running lanes with his great physical strength. He can be beaten by edge rushers with speed, however. OLG Tyronne Green is serviceable but still very raw. C Nick Hardwick returns as the group's leader. Technically sound, Hardwick rarely makes mental errors and can be counted on to do his job on a regular basis. At right guard, Louis Vasquez has proven to be a solid lead blocker and strong pass defender. Injuries are a concern, though, as he never has played through a full season without being hurt. The unit's weak link is ORT Jeromey Clary, who struggles with pass rushers both strong and fast. Clary often needs help from a tight end or running back. Depth was a major issue last season and once again will be tested if injuries arise. Brandyn Dombrowski can fill in at either tackle or guard, though he had serious issues a year ago in pass protection. Rookie C David Molk lacks size but is a good, functional player. Rookie OG Johnnie Troutman likely is headed for a redshirt year after undergoing pectoral surgery in late April.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 10	at Oakland	10:15 p.m.
Sept. 16	Tennessee	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	Atlanta	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	at New Orleans	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 15	Denver	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	BYE	
Oct. 28	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 1	Kansas City	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Denver	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 25	Baltimore	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 2	Cincinnati	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Pittsburgh	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Carolina	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 23	at NY Jets	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 30	Oakland	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to San Diego

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Minnesota	(-9.5)	24-17
Sept. 18	At New England	(+6.5)	21-35
Sept. 25	Kansas City	(-14)	20-17
Oct. 2	Miami	(-6.5)	26-16
Oct. 9	At Denver	(-3.5)	29-24
Oct. 16	BYE		
Oct. 23	At New York Jets	(-1)	21-27
Oct. 31	At Kansas City	(-3)	20-23*
Nov. 6	Green Bay	(+6)	38-45
Nov. 10	Oakland	(-7)	17-24
Nov. 20	At Chicago	(+4.5)	20-31
Nov. 27	Denver	(-4.5)	13-16*
Dec. 5	At Jacksonville	(-3)	38-14
Dec. 11	Buffalo	(-7)	37-10
Dec. 18	Baltimore	(+2)	34-14
Dec. 24	At Detroit	(0)	10-38
Jan. 1	At Oakland	(+2.5)	38-26

* Overtime

DEFENSE

The Chargers have their third defensive coordinator in as many years, as John Pagano replaces the fired Greg Manusky. Pagano, the team's longtime LB coach, is well-versed in the 3-4 scheme and promises to bring more of an attacking style than Manusky did. One area that must be addressed is getting off the field on third downs. The Chargers were 32nd in that department in 2011, allowing opponents to convert nearly half of their third-down attempts.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Corey Liuget, the team's first-round pick in 2011, will be expected to take a major step forward in his second season. He started 13 games as a rookie, his first year playing right defensive end after being a three-technique in college. Liuget needs to add muscle — he was pushed around at times in '11 — and continue to improve as a pass rusher. Only 22, he still has plenty of time to develop. DLE Vaughn Martin is a skilled run stopper who can plug holes with his large frame and a violent hitter who knocks ballcarriers backward upon contact. The team saw little drop-off when Martin, who's not much of a pass rusher, replaced Luis Castillo in the lineup after Week One.

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	MINN.	@N.E.	K.C.	MIA.	@DEN.	@N.Y.J.	@K.C.	G.B.	OAK.	@CHI.	DEN.	@JAX.	BUFF.	BALT.	@DET.	@OAK.	
Score	24-17	21-35	20-17	26-16	29-24	21-27	20-23	38-45	17-24	20-31	13-16	38-14	37-10	34-14	10-38	38-26	
Total net yards	407	470	375	411	418	268	447	460	314	332	344	433	366	415	367	463	6290
Rushing yards	77	98	117	116	206	96	102	85	75	52	185	139	150	145	68	153	1864
Passing yards	330	372	258	295	212	172	345	375	239	280	159	294	216	270	299	310	4426
Rushing plays	27	24	30	28	43	25	27	21	15	17	36	26	32	37	17	31	436
Sacks allowed	2	2	2	2	5	1	3	2	6	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	30
Had intercepted	2	2	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	20
Fumbles lost	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
Yards penalized	26	44	40	80	0	95	105	64	31	20	30	55	50	35	10	68	753
Punts	3	1	2	3	3	4	3	2	6	3	6	4	3	0	4	0	47

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	22:43	28:07	25:17	26:42	19:52	32:46	27:45	29:45	32:37	33:10	29:54	31:43	24:27	25:48	32:21	29:33	28:21
Total net yards	187	504	252	248	275	318	341	368	489	378	349	306	281	290	440	520	5546
Rushing yards	159	94	81	72	162	162	94	136	191	92	208	129	96	89	87	103	1955
Passing yards	28	410	171	176	113	156	247	232	298	286	141	177	185	201	353	417	3591
Rushing plays	26	25	27	22	23	31	32	26	41	32	51	31	20	14	23	24	448
Sacks allowed	2	2	1	3	0	2	3	4	1	0	1	2	1	7	3	0	32
Had intercepted	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	17
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Yards penalized	78	80	65	41	53	60	53	33	45	61	63	26	5	25	8	64	760
Punts	6	2	4	3	6	3	5	2	4	3	9	5	2	2	3	1	60

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Brinkley							10-43-1				1-1-0	3-5-0				16-52-0	30-101-1
Hester		1-12-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	11-47-0		1-1-0	1-3-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	3-7-0	2-6-0	1-3-0	2-5-0	28-90-0
V. Jackson			1-1-0											1-9-0		1-41-0	3-51-0
Mathews	12-45-0	12-64-1	21-98-2	16-81-0	24-125-0	13-39-0	13-57-0		6-34-0	13-37-0	22-137-0	13-112-1	20-114-0	26-90-2	11-58-0		222-1091-6
Rivers	3-(-3)-0	2-12-0	3-(-2)-0	5-18-0	3-10-1	1-(-1)-0	3-1-0	1-(-1)-0	1-4-0		1-1-0					3-(-3)-0	26-36-1
Tolbert	12-35-1	9-10-0	4-19-0	6-17-1	5-24-0	11-58-1		19-83-1	7-36-0	3-14-0	11-44-0	6-24-1	6-21-1	8-40-1	5-7-0	9-58-1	121-490-8

PASSING **

Rivers	33-48-2 335-2	29-40-2 378-2	24-38-2 266-0	21-31-0 307-1	18-29-1 250-1	16-32-2 179-1	26-41-2 369-0	26-46-3 385-4	23-47-1 274-2	21-31-2 280-2	19-36-0 188-1	22-28-0 294-3	24-33-0 240-3	17-23-0 270-1	28-53-2 299-1	19-26-1 310-3	366-582-20 4624-27

RECEIVING

Brinkley							3-24-0				1-5-0					3-12-0	7-41-0
V. Brown				2-26-0				4-79-0	5-97-1	1-8-0	3-50-0	1-22-1		1-13-0	2-34-0		19-329-2
Crayton			5-47-0	1-3-0	1-10-0	1-3-0	3-50-0	1-5-0	3-34-0		1-11-0	1-5-0	3-37-1		2-20-0	1-23-0	23-248-1
Floyd	3-45-0	2-59-0	2-28-0	2-26-0	3-100-1	2-36-0	5-107-0					4-108-1	2-29-0	5-96-1	6-95-1	7-127-1	43-856-5
Gates	8-74-0					5-54-1	4-73-0	8-96-1	5-54-0	4-63-1	6-49-1	6-70-0	7-68-2	2-31-0	4-40-0	5-106-1	64-778-7
Hester	3-13-0		1-2-0		2-13-0			1-2-0	1-7-1	2-6-0		1-2-0			1-3-0		12-48-1
V. Jackson	2-31-0	10-172-2	5-63-0	3-108-1	3-34-0	1-15-0	3-49-0	7-141-3	1-22-0	7-165-1	2-25-0	4-72-1	5-55-0	3-84-0	2-41-0	2-29-1	60-1106-9
Mathews	3-73-0	7-62-0	4-51-0	5-68-0	1-7-0	4-26-0	6-55-0		3-23-0	2-14-0	1-5-0	3-2-0	6-34-0	2-19-0	3-16-0		50-455-0
McMichael	3-20-0	1-6-0	4-51-0	3-25-0	4-29-0	3-45-0	2-11-0	1-3-0			2-24-0	2-13-0	1-17-0	2-9-0	2-18-0		30-271-0
Sperry					1-32-0												1-32-0
Tolbert	9-58-2	8-73-0	3-24-0	5-51-0	3-25-0			4-59-0	5-37-0	5-24-0	3-19-0			2-18-0	6-32-0	1-13-0	54-433-2
Walters	2-21-0	1-6-0															3-27-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Melvin Ingram	OLB	South Carolina	18
2	Kendall Reyes	DE	Connecticut	49
3	Brandon Taylor	SS	LSU	73
4	Ladarius Green	TE	Louisiana-Lafayette	110
5	Johnnie Troutman	OG	Penn State	149
7	David Molk	C	Michigan	226
7	Edwin Baker	RB	Michigan State	250

M. INGRAM

This will be a big season for Martin's development, as the team drafted his potential replacement, Kendall Reyes, in the second round. Reyes is athletic off the snap and able to make plays in the backfield with his speed and nonstop motor. He possesses prototype size for the five-technique position. NT Antonio Garay is a veteran run stuffer whose stout frame makes him difficult to block. Garay is also one of the team's surest tacklers, rarely letting opponents out of his grasp when he gets a hand on them. Powerful, bull-rushing DT Cam Thomas subs in on third down, and he is the unit's top pass rusher. DE Jacques Cesaire also sees snaps on occasion, as will Castillo, who returns after missing nearly all of '11 with a broken leg.

LINEBACKERS

The tone for the entire Chargers defense is set by the linebacking corps, which is a mix of established vets and talented youngsters. ILB Takeo Spikes is the vocal leader of the unit. Signed prior to the 2011 season, Spikes had a terrific season, leading the team in tackles and providing guidance for the rest of the "D." Spikes has terrific instincts and is repeatedly in the right place at the right time. Though he no longer has elite speed, the 35-year-old is strong against the run and can patrol the middle of the field in the passing game. ILB Donald Butler, who's set to enter his third year in the pros, had an impressive season after missing all of '10 with a torn Achilles. He has terrific speed and is an above-average pass defender but must improve his tackling technique. Too many times last season he was beaten on plays that he should have made. Strong-side OLB Shaun Phillips remains an elite defender. Although he was slowed last season by a foot injury, Phillips is a dynamic player who can make an impact in a variety of ways. Fast and strong enough to get to the quarterback, Phillips is effective on blitzes but also shows up vs. the run and in coverage. First-round pick Melvin Ingram, one of the more athletic pass rushers in this year's draft, also will see plenty of playing time, especially in the team's nickel package as a blitzer. Ingram's versatility might make it tough for Chargers coaches to take him off the field. On the weak side, San Diego signed former Raven Jarret Johnson. A physical and smart run defender, Johnson will play on first and second downs and then be subbed out for pass-rush extraordinaire Antwan Barnes. Both players are strong in their respective roles, though Johnson is better in coverage. Reserve OLB Travis LaBoy, a good blitzer but a liability in coverage, comes off the bench, as does Demorrio Williams, a solid run stopper. Jonas Mouton, a second-round pick in '11 who missed his entire rookie year with a shoulder injury, adds depth.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

FS Eric Weddle was paid like an elite safety prior to the 2011 season and backed it up with a Pro Bowl campaign. Weddle tied for the NFL lead in interceptions and often came through in the clutch, with three of his seven picks coming in the fourth quarter. Weddle has great awareness and also isn't afraid to make plays in the box. Free-agent pickup Atari Bigby likely will start at strong safety. A physical hitter who looks to force turnovers, Bigby is an undersized, limited box safety who hasn't been an every-down player since '09. Expect rookie Brandon Taylor, who boasts strong intangibles and physicality, to take Bigby's first-team spot at some point. Darrell Stuckey backs up both safety spots. CB Quentin Jammer remains the team's top

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	12 MEACHEM	86 V. Brown	13 Parrish	
OLT	78 GAITHER	62 Dombrowski		
OLG	69 T. GREEN	67 Hadnot		
C	61 HARDWICK	60 Molk*	64 Baxter	
ORG	65 VASQUEZ	70 Schilling		
ORT	66 CLARY	75 Henderson		
TE	85 GATES	81 McMichael	89 L. Green*	
WR	80 FLOYD	11 Royal	87 Spurlock	
QB	17 RIVERS	6 Whitehurst		
RB	24 MATHEWS	36 Brinkley	26 Baker*	
FB	33 McCLAIN	22 Hester		
DEFENSE				
DLE	92 MARTIN	91 Reyes*	74 Cesaire	
NT	71 GARAY	76 Thomas		
DRE	94 LIUGET	93 Castillo	91 Nwagubo	
SLB	95 PHILLIPS	54 Ingram*	99 LaBoy	
ILB	51 SPIKES	58 Williams		
ILB	56 BUTLER	57 Mouton		
WLB	96 JOHNSON	98 A. Barnes	52 English	
LCB	23 JAMMER	29 Wright		
RCB	20 CASON	38 Gilchrist		
SS	27 BIGBY	28 Bran. Taylor*	25 Stuckey	
FS	32 WEDDLE	41 Polk		
SPECIALISTS				
P	5 SCIFRES			
PK	10 KAEDING	9 Novak		
H	5 SCIFRES			
PR	11 ROYAL			
KR	87 SPURLOCK	13 Parrish		
LS	47 WINDT			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Joe Barry, linebackers; Rich Bisaccia, asst. head coach/special-teams coordinator; Chris Dishman, asst. secondary; Steve Gera, coaches' assistant; Hal Hunter, offensive coordinator; Jeff Hurd, strength and conditioning; Don Johnson, defensive line; Charlie Joiner, wide receivers; Ron Meeks, secondary; Jason Michael, tight ends; John Pagano, defensive coordinator; Carlos Polk, special-teams assistant; John Ramsdell, quarterbacks; Vernon Stephens, asst. strength and conditioning; Mike Sullivan, offensive line; Norv Turner, head coach; Steven Wilks, secondary; Greg Williams, asst. linebackers; Ollie Wilson, running backs.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
1	Anylam, Hubert	WR	6-0	202	R	Oklahoma State	
26	Baker, Edwin	RB	5-8	204	R	Michigan State	
98	Barnes, Antwan	OLB	6-1	251	6	Florida International	16/5
3	Barnes, Jason	WR	6-4	214	R	South Carolina	
64	Baxter, Colin	C	6-3	310	2	Arizona	5/0
73	Bell, Cordell	OT	6-4	305	R	Minnesota State-Mankato	
27	Bigby, Atari	SS	5-11	213	8	UCF	15/2
97	Bird, Bront	LB	6-4	250	2	Texas Tech	9/0
36	Brinkley, Curtis	RB	5-9	208	3	Syracuse	10/1
73	Brown, Eddie	NT	6-0	310	R	Texas A&M	
86	Brown, Vincent	WR	5-11	184	2	San Diego State	14/4
77	Bryant, Charlie	DT	6-6	320	2	Memphis	0/0
72	Burton, Charles	OT	6-5	318	R	Montana	
56	Butler, Donald	ILB	6-1	248	3	Washington	16/16
20	Cason, Antoine	CB	6-1	195	5	Arizona	16/14
93	Castillo, Luis	DE	6-3	290	8	Northwestern	1/1
30	Cattouse, Sean	FS	6-3	218	R	California	
74	Cesaire, Jacques	DE	6-2	295	10	Southern Connecticut St.	12/2
66	Clary, Jeromey	OT	6-6	320	7	Kansas State	16/16
4	Cox, Paul	WR	6-5	205	R	Mississippi Valley St.	
62	Dombrowski, Brandyn	OG-OT	6-5	323	4	San Diego State	15/2
50	Elmore, Ricky	LB	6-4	255	1	Arizona	0/0
84	Embree, Taylor	WR	6-3	207	R	UCLA	
52	English, Larry	OLB	6-2	255	4	Northern Illinois	5/0
80	Floyd, Malcom	WR	6-5	225	7	Wyoming	12/9
59	Gachkar, Andrew	LB	6-3	228	2	Missouri	16/0
78	Gaither, Jared	OT	6-9	340	6	Maryland	15/5
53	Gamble, Darryl	LB	6-2	255	2	Georgia	5/0
71	Garay, Antonio	DT	6-4	320	6	Boston College	16/13
85	Gates, Antonio	TE	6-4	260	10	Kent State	13/13
31	Gatson, Gregory	CB	5-11	180	R	Arkansas	
38	Gilchrist, Marcus	CB	5-10	193	2	Clemson	14/4
15	Goodman, Richard	WR	6-0	192	2	Florida State	16/0
89	Green, Ladarius	TE	6-6	238	R	Louisiana-Lafayette	
69	Green, Tyronne	OG-OT	6-2	316	4	Auburn	13/8
45	Guess, Nick	LS	6-3	230	R	Tennessee	
67	Hadnot, Rex	OG	6-2	310	9	Houston	16/16
61	Hardwick, Nick	C	6-4	305	9	Purdue	16/16
72	Harrell, Logan	DE	6-2	275	R	Fresno State	
79	Harris, Michael	OT	6-5	326	R	UCLA	
34	Hayes, Michael	RB	5-9	200	R	Houston	
75	Henderson, Mario	OT	6-7	300	5	Florida State	0/0
22	Hester, Jacob	FB	5-11	235	5	LSU	16/3
54	Ingram, Melvin	OLB	6-2	264	R	South Carolina	
23	Jammer, Quentin	CB	6-0	204	11	Texas	15/15
96	Johnson, Jarret	OLB	6-3	260	10	Alabama	16/16
10	Kaeding, Nate	PK	6-0	187	9	Iowa	1/0
99	LaBoy, Travis	OLB	6-3	250	8	Hawaii	14/14
16	Lee, Jarrett	QB	6-2	206	R	LSU	
49	Linam, Josh	ILB	6-2	242	R	UCF	
94	Liuget, Corey	DE	6-2	300	2	Illinois	15/13
92	Martin , Vaughn	DE-DT	6-4	308	4	Western Ontario	16/15
24	Mathews, Ryan	RB	6-0	218	3	Fresno State	14/14
35	Marah, Mohamed	FB	6-0	241	R	San Jose State	
2	Martens, Kyle	P	6-6	230	R	Rice	
33	McClain, Le'Ron	FB	6-0	260	6	Alabama	16/10
81	McMichael, Randy	TE	6-3	248	11	Georgia	16/14
12	Meachem, Robert	WR	6-2	210	6	Tennessee	16/8
60	Molk, David	C	6-1	298	R	Michigan	
57	Mouton, Jonas	LB	6-2	240	1	Michigan	0/0
9	Novak, Nick	PK	6-0	198	5	Maryland	15/0
13	Parrish, Roscoe	WR	5-9	175	8	Miami (Fla.)	2/2
7	Payne, Phillip	WR	6-3	205	R	UNLV	
95	Phillips, Shaun	OLB	6-3	250	9	Purdue	12/12
41	Polk, Nick	FS	5-11	218	2	Indiana	0/0
39	Presley, De'Andre	CB	5-11	180	R	Appalachian State	
91	Reyes, Kendall	DE	6-4	299	R	Connecticut	
17	Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	9	North Carolina State	16/16
88	Rosario, Dante	TE	6-4	250	5	Oregon	16/3
11	Royal, Eddie	WR	5-10	185	5	Virginia Tech	12/8
79	Scafe, Damik	DE	6-2	300	1	Boston College	0/0
70	Schilling, Stephen	OL	6-5	308	2	Michigan	9/2
5	Scifres, Mike	P	6-2	221	10	Western Illinois	16/0
82	Sperry, Kory	TE	6-5	250	4	Colorado State	16/4
51	Spikes, Takeo	ILB	6-2	242	15	Auburn	16/16
87	Spurlock, Micheal	WR	5-11	200	5	Mississippi	12/0
25	Stuckey, Darrell	S	5-11	208	3	Kansas	14/0
46	Taylor, Brad	TE	6-3	240	R	Baylor	
28	Taylor, Brandon	SS	5-11	209	R	LSU	
76	Thomas, Cam	DT	6-4	335	3	North Carolina	16/2
63	Troutman, Johnnie	OT	6-4	325	R	Penn State	
77	Tupou, Christian	DE	6-2	300	R	USC	
65	Vasquez, Louis	OG	6-5	335	4	Texas Tech	14/14
32	Weddle, Eric	FS	5-11	200	7	Utah	16/16
6	Whitehurst, Charlie	QB	6-5	225	7	Clemson	3/2
58	Williams, Demorrio	LB	6-1	232	9	Nebraska	12/0
83	Willie, Mike	WR	6-4	211	R	Arizona State	
47	Windt, Mike	LS	6-1	252	3	Cincinnati	16/0
29	Wright, Shareece	CB	5-11	182	2	USC	7/0

cover man. A strong tackler who can be physical with opposing wideouts, Jammer, who will be 33 this season, no longer has elite speed and can be beaten deep. He does come up and play the run well. CB Antoine Cason struggled early in '11 but recovered and played well down the stretch. Cason is terrific with the ball in the air, though too often he loses contain of his man and is beaten over the top. A pair of '11 draft choices — Marcus Gilchrist and Shareece Wright — will come off the bench. They need more seasoning after not seeing much playing time as rookies.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Nate Kaeding was hurt on the very first play of the Chargers' 2011 season, tearing his ACL as Vikings KR Percy Harvin ran by him on a kickoff-return touchdown. Kaeding is now healthy, but he will have to fight for his job with Nick Novak. More than effective as a replacement, Novak made 79.4 percent of his field-goal attempts and averaged 65.5 yards on kickoffs. Though it's Kaeding's job to lose, his history of misfiring in key situations gives Novak a chance. At punter, Mike Scifres remains one of the NFL's best. He had only two touchbacks last season, possessing a strong right leg and pinpoint accuracy. The blocking on both field goals and punts improved in '11, a positive for coordinator Rich Bisaccia. In the return game, there will be an open competition for both kickoffs and punts. Free-agent pickups Eddie Royal, Roscoe Parrish and Micheal Spurlock will be in contention, along with incumbents Richard Goodman and Antoine Cason.

SUMMARY

The pressure is on head coach Norv Turner and general manager A.J. Smith to win this season after missing the playoffs two years in a row. With the division around them getting tougher, the Chargers are hoping that a bounce-back season from Philip Rivers and some key free-agent pickups can bring them back to the postseason. If not, a new coach and GM might be running things in 2013.

4 OAKLAND Raiders

2012 PREDICTION: 6-10 *(FOURTH PLACE IN AFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN AFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

D. ALLEN

HEAD COACH: Dennis Allen
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Knapp
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jason Tarver
OWNER: Mark Davis
STADIUM: O.co Coliseum | **CAPACITY:** 63,026
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.raiders.com

The Raiders start the 2012 season with their third coach in three years but only their second full-time general manager since 1966.

The entire franchise has been subject to major changes since the passing of principal owner and GM Al Davis in October 2011. Hue Jackson, the team's head coach last season, was elevated to interim decision maker following Davis' death, and he was the one who pulled off the controversial trade for QB Carson Palmer, sending a pair of early-round draft choices to the Bengals for the veteran signalcaller. Oakland had a 4-2 record when the deal was made; with Palmer under center, the team went 4-6, missing the playoffs for the ninth season in a row.

Palmer returns, but Jackson does not. He was removed from his duties as GM when the team hired former Packers director of player personnel Reggie McKenzie to run the front office just days after the regular season ended. Hours after he was hired, McKenzie took Jackson's other job, replacing him as head coach after one full year at the helm with ex-Broncos defensive coordinator Dennis Allen, a first-time head coach.

Under the new regime, the Raiders will look significantly different. Allen is the franchise's first head coach with a defensive background since John Madden retired in 1979, and he will devote much of his time to improving that side of the ball. McKenzie's goal is to duplicate the success he had in Green Bay, where building through the draft was the key to prolonged stretches of winning.

SPORTPICS

DARREN McFADDEN

OFFENSE

Though elements of the vertical passing game that has defined the Raiders for so many years will remain, there are some serious changes to the offense. New coordinator Greg Knapp brings in a West Coast, zone-blocking run scheme, similar to what the team had in 2008-10 under Tom Cable, with more play-actions and bootlegs. QB Carson Palmer struggled upon his arrival in Oakland in the middle of the 2011 season, so a full offseason of workouts and jelling with teammates should help. Despite the new system, the key to the offense once again will be the health of RB Darren McFadden, who has missed at least three games every season in which he has played in the NFL.

▶QUARTERBACKS

Considering the high draft picks they gave up (first-rounder in 2012, conditional second-rounder in '13), the midseason trade for QB Carson Palmer was supposed to spark a Raiders run to the playoffs. Instead, it led to the team's eventual downfall. Palmer took longer than expected to shake off the rust of a lengthy holdout with the Bengals, throwing six interceptions in his first two games. He showed that he has good arm strength and can stand in the pocket to make throws with defenders in his face. A classic pocket passer, Palmer must cut down on turnovers. His accuracy, especially on deep

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

CB Ron Bartell, OG Mike Brisiel, RB Mike Goodson, CB Shawntae Spencer, LB Philip Wheeler.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

TE Kevin Boss, RB Michael Bush, QB Jason Campbell, CB Stanford Routt, OLB Kamerion Wimbley.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Darren McFadden

DEFENSIVE MVP
SS Tyvon Branch

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
FB Marcel Reece

POSITION BATTLE
DRE: Matt Shaughnessy vs. Dave Tollefson

D. McFADDEN

T. BRANCH

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C+	C+	C-	B	B+	C	C+	A-

throws, still can be very good, though problems arise when he tries to force throws into passing windows that aren't open. Backup QB Matt Leinart is an accurate passer who has knowledge of Greg Knapp's offense, though he's fragile and lacks the arm strength to make all the throws. Terrelle Pryor is still a long way from being NFL-ready. He, too, will benefit from an offseason around his teammates, something he didn't have as a rookie coming out of the supplemental draft. A very fast runner with great size, Pryor must improve his throwing delivery and knowledge of the playbook before he sees meaningful snaps.

▶RUNNING BACKS

When healthy, few runners in the NFL can match the combination of physical power and sprinter speed that Darren McFadden possesses. Unfortunately for the Raiders, McFadden is rarely healthy. He missed all or most of 10 games last season because of a foot injury, ending a campaign that was garnering early MVP discussion. Dynamic with the ball in his hands both on running plays and as a receiver, McFadden should thrive in the team's zone-blocking offense, assuming he can stay on the field. Backup RB Mike Goodson was effective as both a runner and receiver in 2010 with the Panthers but fell out of favor with Carolina's new coaching staff last season and was barely used before going on I.R. A nice change-of-pace back, Goodson has great speed but must do a better job of protecting the ball. Undersized RB Taiwan Jones also is very fast and could be used more in his second season. The team is very high on FB Marcel Reece as a blocker, receiver and runner. He is deceptively quick, given his size and strength, and is used often as a pass catcher out of the backfield.

▶RECEIVERS

It took longer than expected, but Darrius Heyward-Bey finally showed in 2011 why the team used a first-round pick on him three years ago. Always known for his speed, Heyward-Bey added a dimension of toughness that hadn't been present in his first two seasons in the league. The team's top target improved his ability to make plays in traffic, though he still is more comfortable along the sideline. The same could be said for WR Denarius Moore, a surprise contributor after being a fifth-round pick last April. Moore has terrific downfield speed and great concentration to haul in long passes. However, his route running and run blocking need to improve. Jacoby Ford and Louis Murphy will split time in the slot. Ford also has elite speed and outstanding open-field running skills, though durability is a major concern given his small frame. Murphy has size but doesn't use his height to his advantage and rarely makes plays over the middle. Rookie Juron Criner has good hands and adds an element of physicality to the receiving corps. Tight ends were not a major part of the offense last season, though Greg Knapp's scheme will look to utilize them more. A pair of second-year players — David Ausberry and Richard Gordon — will compete for snaps, though both are giant question marks after being late-round picks in '11. Brandon Myers, a skilled run blocker, also will see plenty of playing time in jumbo formations.

▶OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A new blocking scheme means some new parts on the offensive line, but for the most part, the front five remains intact. The biggest change is with 2011 second-round pick Stefen Wisniewski, who moves from left guard to center. A standout as a rookie, Wisniewski should have no issue changing positions. An alert player who can handle blitz pickups along with his regular blocking assignments, Wisniewski will serve the team well in the middle of the line. He can get to the second level with terrific ability to play in space, and his athleticism will be well-utilized in the zone-blocking scheme. Another moving piece is dependable OLG Cooper Carlisle, who started all 16 games at right guard in '11. He changes positions because of the signing of ex-Texans ORG Mike Brisiel, a heady player who relies on toughness and intelligence. The tackles remain the same, with Jared Veldheer protecting Carson Palmer's blind side and Khalif Barnes at the ORT spot. Veldheer can be dominant, using his large frame to wall off defenders and surprising agility to create running lanes. He also can be sloppy, as he was flagged for seven holding penalties in 2011. Barnes is a solid blocker who occasionally needs the help of a tight end or back when facing elite pass rushers. Second-year pro Joseph Barksdale provides depth and could push Barnes for playing time with an impressive camp. Rookie Tony Bergstrom can play all three interior line spots and is Carlisle's eventual replacement.

DEFENSE

Versatility will be the key element of the defense this season, as defensive-minded head coach Dennis Allen and new coordinator Jason Tarver plan to run a hybrid scheme that generally will be out of the 4-3, but occasionally lining up in the 3-4. With a strong front seven, the team should be able to mix and match depending on the situation. The run defense must show great improvement from last year, and the secondary must force more turnovers if the unit is going to be successful.

▶DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Even at age 32, DT Richard Seymour remains one of the

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 10	San Diego	10:15 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Miami	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	Pittsburgh	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Denver	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 7	BYE	
Oct. 14	at Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Jacksonville	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Kansas City	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 4	Tampa Bay	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	New Orleans	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Cleveland	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 6	Denver	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 16	Kansas City	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at San Diego	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Oakland

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 12	At Denver	(+3)	23-20
Sept. 18	At Buffalo	(+3.5)	35-38
Sept. 25	New York Jets	(+2.5)	34-24
Oct. 2	New England	(+6.5)	19-31
Oct. 9	At Houston	(+5)	25-20
Oct. 16	Cleveland	(-7)	24-17
Oct. 23	Kansas City	(-3.5)	0-28
Oct. 30	BYE		
Nov. 6	Denver	(-7)	24-38
Nov. 10	At San Diego	(+7)	24-17
Nov. 20	At Minnesota	(+2.5)	27-21
Nov. 27	Chicago	(-3)	25-20
Dec. 4	At Miami	(+3)	14-34
Dec. 11	At Green Bay	(+12)	16-46
Dec. 18	Detroit	(+3)	27-28
Dec. 24	At Kansas City	(+3)	16-13*
Jan. 1	San Diego	(-2.5)	26-38

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@DEN.**	**@BUFF.**	**N.Y.J.**	**N.E.**	**@HOU.**	**CLEV.**	**K.C.**	**DEN.**	**@S.D.**	**@MINN.**	**CHI.**	**@MIA.**	**@G.B.**	**DET.**	**@K.C.**	**S.D.**	
Score	23-20	35-38	34-24	19-31	25-20	24-17	0-28	24-38	24-17	27-21	25-20	14-34	16-46	27-28	16-13	26-38	
Total net yards	289	454	383	504	278	329	322	416	489	301	341	304	357	477	308	520	6072
Rushing yards	190	131	234	160	94	151	155	100	191	162	73	46	117	132	71	103	2110
Passing yards	99	323	149	344	184	178	167	316	298	139	268	258	240	345	237	417	3962
Rushing plays	39	30	32	27	22	40	27	26	41	41	27	14	29	22	25	24	466
Sacks allowed	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	2	1	4	4	2	1	3	0	0	25
Had intercepted	0	1	0	2	1	0	6	3	1	0	1	1	4	0	2	1	23
Fumbles lost	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	7
Yards penalized	131	85	55	85	89	35	120	130	45	117	44	91	89	86	92	64	1358
Punts	6	3	6	2	7	4	6	6	4	6	5	8	5	5	4	1	78

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	27:25	30:47	33:14	26:40	34:25	25:19	33:37	31:51	27:23	24:16	29:58	38:20	28:40	28:27	31:29	30:27	30:09
Total net yards	310	481	439	409	473	268	300	412	314	311	401	362	391	432	435	463	6201
Rushing yards	38	223	100	183	70	65	139	299	75	124	172	209	136	57	135	153	2178
Passing yards	272	258	339	226	403	203	161	113	239	187	229	153	255	375	300	310	4023
Rushing plays	13	24	25	30	25	21	39	39	15	24	27	44	24	19	30	31	430
Sacks allowed	5	1	4	1	3	2	0	1	6	5	4	1	4	2	0	0	39
Had intercepted	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	2	1	18
Fumbles lost	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
Yards penalized	91	26	61	45	50	34	98	93	31	50	61	79	35	72	88	68	982
Punts	4	2	5	3	8	6	7	5	6	3	5	4	1	6	3	0	68

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Bush	9-30-0	4-23-1	8-22-1	8-26-1	4-9-0	10-28-0	17-99-0	19-96-0	30-157-1	30-109-1	24-69-1	10-18-0	23-78-1	18-77-0	23-70-0	19-66-0	256-977-7
T. Jones		1-4-0	1-8-0				3-18-0	2-1-0	7-39-0	2-3-0							16-73-0
McFadden	22-150-0	20-72-1	19-171-2	14-75-0	16-51-0	20-91-1	2-4-0										113-614-4
Palmer								5-3-0	3-(-8)-0	3-5-1		1-2-0	2-12-0			2-6-0	16-20-1
Reece	1-11-0	1-4-0							1-3-0	6-45-0	2-0-0	1-10-0	2-12-0	1-26-0	2-1-0		17-112-0

PASSING **

J. Campbell	13-22-0 105-1	23-33-1 323-2	18-27-0 156-0	25-39-2 344-1	15-35-1 190-2	6-9-0 52-0											100-165-4 1170-6
Palmer							8-21-3 116-0	19-35-3 332-3	14-20-1 299-2	17-23-0 164-1	21-37-1 301-0	20-41-1 273-2	24-42-4 247-1	32-40-0 367-1	16-26-2 237-1	28-43-1 417-2	199-328-16 2753-13

RECEIVING

Boss			2-36-0	4-78-0		1-35-1	1-11-0		2-32-0	5-37-0	1-8-0	1-8-0	5-43-1	3-47-0		3-33-1	28-368-3
Bush			2-35-0	4-55-0		1-9-0	2-12-0	2-33-1	3-85-0	2-20-0	4-24-0	3-27-0	3-19-0	7-62-0	2-24-0	2-13-0	37-418-1
Ford	3-22-0				3-36-0	3-43-0	2-13-0	5-105-1	1-41-0							2-19-0	19-279-1
Hagan		5-61-0	1-13-0	4-27-0	1-13-0												11-114-0
Heyward-Bey	4-44-0		1-5-0	4-115-0	7-99-1	6-82-0	5-89-0			4-43-0	4-42-0	3-23-1	5-78-0	8-155-1	4-70-0	9-130-1	64-975-4
McFadden	1-6-0	7-71-1	3-7-0	4-48-0	2-17-0	1-2-0	1-3-0										19-154-1
Moore		5-146-1	4-34-0	3-19-1		1-9-0	1-4-0	4-61-0	5-123-2	1-14-0				2-13-0	4-94-1	3-101-0	33-618-5
Murphy								1-23-0			2-53-0	2-15-0	4-70-0	1-8-0		5-72-0	15-241-0
Myers	2-10-0	2-16-0				1-3-0	1-9-0	1-11-0	2-11-0	2-23-0	1-24-0	3-33-0				1-11-0	16-151-0
Reece	3-23-1	3-20-0						3-51-1		2-16-0	5-92-0	1-38-0	4-7-0	3-16-0	1-10-0	2-28-0	27-301-2
Schilens		1-9-0	4-31-0		2-25-1			2-20-0		1-11-1	4-58-0	6-89-0	1-14-0	2-14-0			23-271-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2011 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
3	Tony Bergstrom	OG	Utah	95
4	Miles Burris	OLB	San Diego State	129
5	Jack Crawford	DE	Penn State	158
5	Juron Criner	WR	Arizona	168
8	Christo Bilukidi	DT	Georgia State	189
7	Nate Stupar	OLB	Penn State	230

T. BERGSTROM

tougher linemen to block on a consistent basis. Physical and mean, Seymour can bull-rush through opposing linemen and has the strength to fight off blockers and make stops in the run game. With his aggressive style comes foolish penalties, however, and Seymour has had his fair share of those in recent years. Expect Seymour to line up as a five-technique when the team goes to its 3-4 defense. Veteran DT Tommy Kelly will be in the middle of the line no matter which scheme they are in. A skilled pass rusher, Kelly has great quickness off the ball and is constantly wreaking havoc in the backfield. Desmond Bryant and Lamarr Houston will see extensive playing time. Bryant is the better pass rusher of the two and will contribute to the aggressive style Oakland looks to show up front, playing both end and tackle. Houston, the starting left end, is strong vs. the run and uses outstanding instincts to sniff out plays and be in the right spot at the right time. The team also has high hopes that DRE Matt Shaughnessy is able to make a major contribution after missing most of 2011 with a shoulder injury. Free-agent pickup Dave Tollefson, who won two Super Bowls in his five seasons with the Giants, is a tough, productive defensive end who gives opponents fits with his feisty style of play. There isn't expected to be much playing time available for rookies Jack Crawford and Christo Bilukidi, both of whom are developmental prospects who need to add strength and increase their football IQ.

▶LINEBACKERS

Scouts have mixed opinions on MLB Rolando McClain. Some are impressed by his run-stopping and pass-rush abilities, along with his open-field tackling. Others point to his inability to play in pass coverage both deep down the field and in the flats as a major issue. The Raiders take the good with the bad, as McClain is a three-down 'backer who rarely leaves the field. Weak-side OLB Aaron Curry, a midseason pickup last season, has never lived up to the hype of being a former top-five draft pick. He's a solid player who can play both the run and the pass well, but he gets lost easily and doesn't have great strength to fight off blocks. He might do better in the 3-4 as a pass rusher. Ex-Colts SLB Philip Wheeler racks up high tackle totals but will have a tough time replacing Kamerion Wimbley (seven sacks in '11) as the unit's big-play specialist. Wheeler has two sacks and two forced fumbles in four NFL seasons. Depth is limited behind the three starters, so Miles Burris, Oakland's fourth-round pick, could see plenty of playing time. Burris is tough and smart but tends to be overaggressive at times. Fellow rookie Nate Stupar's biggest contributions likely will come on special teams, though his work ethic could help him see the field on defense as a reserve.

▶DEFENSIVE BACKS

The fact that SS Tyvon Branch was given the franchise tag in the offseason indicates how highly the Raiders think of him. A tackling machine who uses his combination of size and speed to blow up plays around the line scrimmage, Branch is a future Pro Bowler. His pass coverage could use improvement, although that has become better each year he has been in the league. FS Michael Huff made some big plays a year ago while battling injuries. However, he's unreliable and is as likely to be burned over the top as he is to make an important pass breakup. Backup FS Matt Giordano showed good ball skills in 2011 with five interceptions, and he could take over Huff's job at some point. Both starting corners from Week One of last year were cut in the offseason,

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	**85 HEYWARD-BEY**	18 Murphy	16 McGee	
OLT	**68 VELDHEER**	78 Hurd		
OLG	**66 CARLISLE**	70 Bergstrom*		
C	**61 WISNIEWSKI**			
ORG	**65 BRISIEL**	67 Parsons		
ORT	**69 BARNES**	72 Barksdale	73 Wang	
TE	**86 AUSBERRY**	83 Myers	82 Gordon	
WR	**17 MOORE**	12 Ford	84 Criner*	
QB	**3 PALMER**	7 Leinart	6 Pryor	
RB	**20 McFADDEN**	25 Goodson	22 Jones	
FB	**45 REECE**	41 Tonga		
DEFENSE				
DLE	**99 HOUSTON**	91 Crawford*		
DLT	**92 SEYMOUR**	90 Bryant	96 Bilukidi*	
DRT	**93 KELLY**	73 Cumbie	97 Ivey	
DRE	**77 SHAUGHNESSY**	58 Tollefson	62 Davis	
SLB	**52 WHEELER**	56 Burris*	50 Goethel	
MLB	**55 McCLAIN**	54 Stupar*		
WLB	**51 CURRY**	53 Ihenacho		
LCB	**21 BARTELL**	23 Van Dyke	28 Underwood	
RCB	**36 SPENCER**	35 Chekwa	26 Lee	
SS	**33 BRANCH**	34 Mitchell		
FS	**24 HUFF**	27 Giordano	39 Taylor	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**9 LECHLER**			
11	**11 JANIKOWSKI**			
H	**9 LECHLER**			
PR	**17 MOORE**	12 Ford		
KR	**12 FORD**	22 Jones		
LS	**59 CONDO**			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Dennis Allen, head coach; Keith Burns, asst. special teams; John DeFilippo, quarterbacks; Ted Gilmore, wide receivers; John Grieco, asst. strength and conditioning; Justin Griffith, offensive quality control; Steve Hoffman, special-teams coordinator; Johnny Holland, linebackers; Mark Hutson, tight ends; Greg Knapp, offensive coordinator; Clayton Lopez, defensive backs; Johnnie Lynn, defensive backs; Al Miller, strength and conditioning; Frank Pollack, offensive line; Eric Sanders, defensive quality control; Al Saunders, senior offensive assistant; Kelly Skipper, running backs; Jason Tarver, defensive coordinator; Terrell Williams, defensive line; Steve Wisniewski, asst. offensive line.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
86	Ausberry, David	TE	6-4	245	2	USC	12/0
72	Barksdale, Joseph	OT	6-4	325	2	LSU	16/0
69	Barnes, Khalif	OT	6-5	325	8	Washington	16/16
21	Bartell, Ron	CB	6-1	210	8	Howard	1/1
70	Bergstrom, Tony	OG	6-5	315	R	Utah	
96	Bilukidi, Christo	DT	6-5	290	R	Georgia State	
15	Bomar, Rhett	QB	6-2	225	1	Sam Houston State	0/0
33	Branch, Tyvon	SS	6-0	205	5	Connecticut	16/16
65	Brisiel, Mike	OG	6-5	300	7	Colorado State	13/13
95	Brodine, Mason	DE	6-7	255	1	Nebraska-Kearney	2/0
90	Bryant, Desmond	DT	6-5	290	4	Harvard	16/11
56	Burris, Miles	LB	6-2	246	R	San Diego State	
14	Calhoun, Duke	WR	6-2	200	2	Memphis	0/0
66	Carlisle, Cooper	OG	6-5	295	13	Florida	16/16
35	Chekwa, Chimdi	CB	6-0	190	2	Ohio State	4/1
59	Condo, Jon	LS	6-3	250	7	Maryland	16/0
91	Crawford, Jack	DE	6-5	273	R	Penn State	
84	Criner, Juron	WR	6-2	220	R	Arizona	
73	Cumbie, Jamie	DT	6-7	290	1	Clemson	0/0
51	Curry, Aaron	LB	6-2	255	4	Wake Forest	11/11
62	Davis, Hall	DE	6-6	265	1	Louisiana-Lafayette	0/0
12	Ford, Jacoby	WR	5-9	185	3	Clemson	8/3
27	Giordano, Matt	S	5-11	210	8	California	16/8
50	Goethel, Travis	LB	6-2	240	2	Arizona State	0/0
25	Goodson, Mike	RB	6-0	210	3	Texas A&M	4/0
82	Gordon, Richard	TE	6-4	265	2	Miami (Fla.)	14/1
47	Hardy, Andre	TE	6-5	250	R	Cal State Fullerton	
85	Heyward-Bey, Darrius	WR	6-2	210	4	Maryland	15/14
99	Houston, Lamarr	DE	6-3	305	3	Texas	16/14
24	Huff, Michael	FS	6-1	205	7	Texas	12/11
78	Hurd, Zach	OL	6-7	325	1	Connecticut	0/0
53	Ihenacho, Carl	LB	6-3	255	1	San Jose State	0/0
97	Ivey, Travis	NT	6-4	325	1	Maryland	0/0
38	Jackson, Rashawn	RB	6-1	240	1	Virginia	0/0
11	Janikowski, Sebastian	PK	6-2	250	13	Florida State	15/0
22	Jones, Taiwan	RB	6-0	195	2	Eastern Washington	10/0
93	Kelly, Tommy	DT	6-6	300	9	Mississippi State	16/16
31	Lambert, Terrail	DB	5-11	190	2	Notre Dame	0/0
9	Lechler, Shane	P	6-2	225	13	Texas A&M	16/0
26	Lee, Pat	CB	6-0	195	4	Auburn	16/0
7	Leinart, Matt	QB	6-5	227	6	USC	2/1
29	McCann, Bryan	DB	5-10	185	3	SMU	7/0
55	McClain, Rolando	LB	6-3	255	3	Alabama	15/14
20	McFadden, Darren	RB	6-2	210	5	Arkansas	7/7
16	McGee, Eddie	WR	6-4	210	1	Illinois	0/0
46	Miller, Lonyae	RB	6-0	230	1	Fresno State	0/0
34	Mitchell, Mike	SS	6-1	220	4	Ohio	13/2
17	Moore, Denarius	WR	6-0	195	2	Tennessee	13/10
18	Murphy, Louis	WR	6-2	200	4	Florida	11/1
83	Myers, Brandon	TE	6-4	250	4	Iowa	16/7
3	Palmer, Carson	QB	6-5	235	10	USC	10/9
67	Parsons, Alex	OL	6-4	300	1	USC	0/0
6	Pryor, Terrelle	QB	6-6	230	2	Ohio State	1/0
45	Reece, Marcel	FB	6-3	240	4	Washington	12/6
92	Seymour, Richard	DT	6-6	310	12	Georgia	16/15
77	Shaughnessy, Matt	DE	6-5	270	3	Wisconsin	3/3
36	Spencer, Shawntae	CB	6-1	190	9	Pittsburgh	9/0
54	Stupar, Nathan	LB	6-2	241	R	Penn State	
39	Taylor, Curtis	S	6-2	210	3	LSU	0/0
58	Tollefson, Dave	DE	6-4	266	5	Northwest Missouri St.	16/2
41	Tonga, Manase	FB	5-11	245	2	Brigham Young	11/3
28	Underwood, Brandon	CB	6-1	190	3	Cincinnati	0/0
23	Van Dyke, DeMarcus	CB	6-1	180	2	Miami (Fla.)	14/4
68	Veldheer, Jared	OT	6-8	315	3	Hillsdale (Mich.)	16/16
73	Wang, Ed	OT	6-5	321	3	Virginia Tech	0/0
52	Wheeler, Philip	LB	6-2	240	4	Georgia Tech	13/11
61	Wisniewski, Stefen	C	6-3	315	2	Penn State	16/16

so three veterans at the position were brought in. Ron Bartell and Shawntae Spencer, both of whom are coming off injuries, are expected to start. Neither is considered elite, and both have struggled in the past covering physical wideouts in single coverage. Second-year CBs DeMarcus Van Dyke and Chimdi Chekwa have blazing speed, and they will compete with the third veteran, Pat Lee, for the nickel spot. All three have similar skill sets — they're very fast but are poor open-field tacklers and average cover men.

SPECIAL TEAMS

No team in the NFL has a better placekicker-punter pairing than the Raiders. PK Sebastian Janikowski has the longest range of any kicker in the league; in 2011 he drilled seven field goals from 50 yards or longer, including an NFL-record-tying 63-yarder in Week One. The lefty also boosted his accuracy after a poor season in 2010, missing only one kick inside 50 yards. P Shane Lechler also showed off his strong leg, with an outstanding net average of 40.9 yards. Coverage was an issue, however, as the Raiders allowed one kickoff and two punts to be returned for TDs a year ago. On returns, the team has two dynamic playmakers in Jacoby Ford (kickoffs) and Denarius Moore (punts). Both players have great acceleration and are tough to bring down in the open field. Blocking must improve on both units, however, for Ford and Moore to make their desired impact.

SUMMARY

No team in the AFC West has more questions than the Raiders. Will Carson Palmer return to an elite level of quarterback? Can Darren McFadden stay healthy? Are there enough playmakers at receiver? Is there anyone on the defense who can rush the passer? And that doesn't even include questions about Dennis Allen and Reggie McKenzie, a first-time head coach and GM, respectively. Since it wasn't able to add much help in free agency or the draft, unless all of those answers turn out in Oakland's favor, it's likely the team will take a step back after consecutive 8-8 seasons.

1 PHILADELPHIA Eagles

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

HEAD COACH: Andy Reid
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Marty Mornhinweg
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Juan Castillo
OWNER: Jeffrey Lurie
STADIUM: Lincoln Financial Field | **CAPACITY:** 68,532
PLAYING SURFACE: DD Grassmaster (Natural grass)
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.philadelphiaeagles.com

What went wrong? That was the question Eagles fans were left to ponder following an incredibly frustrating 8-8, third-place finish after the team spent wildly in a post-lockout rush a mere seven months removed from a division crown and a 10-6 mark in 2010.

The answers weren't all obvious, but it's clear this talented team fell woefully short in several key departments. Chief among them were turnovers; the Eagles were an abysmal minus-14. The other number that haunted them: five blown leads in the fourth quarter, when a lack of stamina and bad defense (along with those turnovers) reared their ugly heads.

The Eagles head into this season with far less drama but also a lot of talent that led to the team ranking in the top 10 in rushing yards, passing yards, first downs and scoring on offense and yards allowed, sacks and points allowed on defense. Michael Vick, LeSean McCoy and a dangerous offense can dominate in any given week, although the indefinite loss of OLT Jason Peters (ruptured Achilles) cannot be overstated.

The significant improvement must come on defense, where the team made dramatic strides down the stretch during a 4-0 finish (after the 4-8 start). The team was 8-0 when it held opponents to fewer than 20 points, but too often it was a defense that was overly reliant on front-four pressure and had major coverage issues.

More leadership and an offseason of work together might be just what this group needs to put things together — a year later than expected.

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

LeSEAN McCOY

OFFENSE

By the numbers, this was a productive unit. But Michael Vick's health and inconsistency were troublesome, even as RB LeSean McCoy carried the group. The offense was far more run-based than ever before under Andy Reid and Marty Mornhinweg, and McCoy rewarded them with a great season. But turnovers killed momentum and rallied opponents. The Eagles were actually a far more effective team when they ran a more controlled version of their fast-break offense than trying to speed up and down the field.

QUARTERBACKS

Michael Vick, who missed three games and was knocked out of two more, showed toughness some didn't know he had. But he took a step back with a propensity for poor decisions and bad ball security (14 interceptions, an NFC-high 10 fumbles, four lost). Six of those turnovers came in the red zone. When Vick smelled big plays, he pulled the trigger — and he must learn when to fit it into tight windows, when to run and when to throw it away. Solving that equation could allow him to match the peaks from his MVP-caliber 2010 play. He still can gut teams with his laser arm and ankle-breaking runs. But Vick will be challenged to play more in control and become more like Steve Young was near the end of his career. The team signed Trent Edwards to battle with

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
OT Demetress Bell, MLB DeMeco Ryans.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
RB Ronnie Brown, C Jamaal Jackson, OT Winston Justice, DT Trevor Laws, DE Juqua Parker, FB Owen Schmitt, WR Steve Smith, QB Vince Young.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB LeSean McCoy

DEFENSIVE MVP
MLB DeMeco Ryans

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
FS Nate Allen

POSITION BATTLE
SS: Jaiquawn Jarrett vs. Kurt Coleman

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	B+	A-	B-	A	C+	C+	C

third-year QB Mike Kafka and rookie Nick Foles. The only one almost certain to make the final roster is Foles, a third-round pick who has great size and put up big numbers in college but has heavy feet and questionable pocket awareness. Edwards is smart and fairly athletic, although he lacks a big arm and hasn't taken a regular-season snap since 2010. Kafka was hot and cold in replacing Vick and might be the odd man out in the picture.

RUNNING BACKS

LeSean McCoy scored in all but two of his 15 games, gained 5.1 yards per touch and lost only one fumble in 321 chances. He's shifty, low-cut, explosive and tough to take down near the goal line, most dangerous on outside zone runs and sprint draws. He wasn't prolific as a receiver, slowed down the final third of the season because of extra wear (he was among the RB leaders in number of plays) and also can be stoned in short-yardage situations. But McCoy is the engine that makes this offense go, especially when Michael Vick is off or opposing defenses are sagging off in deep zones. Finding a quality backup is important. Dion Lewis is a smaller, less dynamic version of McCoy but didn't show much as a rookie. He looks like a third back with limited pass-protection skills. The team took a flier on troubled but talented Bryce Brown, who might surprise as a bigger back if he can keep his head on straight. Fullback is a part-time job here, but Stanley Havili could offer pass-catching flair to the spot.

RECEIVERS

DeSean Jackson allowed his contract situation to unravel him. With a new deal now, how will he perform? When focused, Jackson is among the NFL's more dangerous wideouts, able to get over the top of even the deepest zones, which opens up the rest of the offense. But he can be moody and recalcitrant, and his effort and attention to detail can waver. Jackson was benched twice last season and had several drops, but he is 25 years old, has elite speed and playmaking ability and is a game changer on special teams, if the Eagles still plan to use him on punts. Jeremy Maclin is an excellent foil: He's sleek and fast and can work underneath and the middle, take short throws a long way and he has proven to be a red-zone threat. Along with slot WR Jason Avant, whose catch totals have improved the past five seasons, the Eagles are loaded at wideout. WR Riley Cooper is a quality special-teamer and occasional big receiving threat at nearly 20 yards a pop, but keep an eye on sixth-rounder Marvin McNutt who has the skills and size to surprise. The Eagles used more two-TE formations and figure to keep doing so with Brent Celek and Clay Harbor. Celek fought through injuries to put up good numbers and offer his best blocking yet. Harbor is an excellent athlete who is rounding into form on offense.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Eagles were dealt a big blow with All-Pro OLT Jason Peters suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon in March, leaving his season in doubt. Peters was arguably the best left tackle in the NFL in '11. OL coach Howard Mudd, who whipped this group into a team strength, will help adjust for the loss. OLT Demetress Bell arrives with questions of consistency and durability, having played more than eight games only once in his career. But he has the feet to play in the scheme and appears to be ascending. OLG Evan Mathis moves well with rolling pockets, can pull and get out into space and is smart and precise in technique. C Jason Kelce was a good find and is compared to the Packers' Jeff Saturday, another gem Mudd unearthed in Indy years ago. Kelce struggled early and can get blown off the ball — he's light in the trousers. But he's a savvy thinker and grinder who makes the most of his ability. ORG Danny Watkins settled in as a 27-year-old rookie and had a few flashes. But he was awful early and must show he's the long-term solution. Watkins is tough and hardworking and should improve in pass sets. ORT Todd Herremans is the unsung hero. He stepped in at right tackle, despite not previously playing there, and was excellent. He's not a road grader, but Herremans is a good wall-off blocker with quick feet and more edge than he's given credit for. The depth is better with the addition of rookies Dennis Kelly and Brandon Washington, along with veterans King Dunlap (seven starts in Philly), Thomas Welch, Steve Vallos, Mike Gibson and Julian Vandervelde.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Arizona	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 30	NY Giants	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Pittsburgh	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	BYE	
Oct. 28	Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 5	at New Orleans	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	Dallas	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Washington	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 26	Carolina	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Dallas	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 13	Cincinnati	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 23	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at NY Giants	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Philadelphia

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At St. Louis	(-4)	31-13
Sept. 18	At Atlanta	(-2.5)	31-35
Sept. 25	New York Giants	(-8)	16-29
Oct. 2	San Francisco	(-10)	23-24
Oct. 9	At Buffalo	(-3)	24-31
Oct. 16	At Washington	(-3)	20-13
Oct. 23	BYE		
Oct. 30	Dallas	(-3)	34-7
Nov. 7	Chicago	(-8)	24-30
Nov. 13	Arizona	(-13)	17-21
Nov. 20	At New York Giants	(+6)	17-10
Nov. 27	New England	(+3)	20-38
Dec. 1	At Seattle	(-3)	14-31
Dec. 11	At Miami	(+3)	26-10
Dec. 18	New York Jets	(-3)	45-19
Dec. 24	At Dallas	(-2.5)	20-7
Jan. 1	Washington	(-7)	34-10

DEFENSE

The scheme was not in sync with the talent, and in an effort to ease new coordinator Juan Castillo (who hadn't coached defense since high school in the 1980s) into his role, the team played a safer style than it had in years. This typically has been a pressure-heavy system, and you should see more of an attacking man-coverage approach this season. Adding MLB DeMeco Ryans, who should step in as a leader, could be the type of move that brings it all together.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This was hardly an area of concern in the passing game, as this group combined for 46 of the team's 50 sacks and helped generate respectable marks against the pass (10th in yards allowed) and on third downs (13th). But DL coach Jim Washburn's "wide-9" alignment, which places the strong-side end outside the tight end's shoulder often led to big running lanes that the linebackers couldn't clean up.

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS																
	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	@ST.L.	@ATL.	N.Y.G.	S.F.	@BUFF.	@WASH.	DALL.	CHI.	ARIZ.	@N.Y.G.	N.E.	@SEA.	@MIA.	N.Y.J.	@DALL.	WASH.	
Score	31-13	31-35	16-29	23-24	24-31	20-13	34-7	24-30	17-21	17-10	20-38	14-31	26-10	45-19	20-7	34-10	
Total net yards	403	447	376	513	489	422	495	330	289	391	466	330	239	420	386	390	6386
Rushing yards	236	133	177	108	174	192	239	119	166	136	73	132	51	160	105	75	2276
Passing yards	167	314	199	405	315	230	256	211	123	255	393	198	188	260	281	315	4110
Rushing plays	32	30	40	20	20	38	38	23	24	33	17	25	32	33	26	19	450
Sacks allowed	3	0	2	2	0	2	4	1	2	1	2	2	4	3	2	2	32
Had intercepted	0	1	3	1	4	2	0	1	2	3	1	4	1	1	0	1	25
Fumbles lost	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	13
Yards penalized	91	20	36	55	46	60	33	44	97	30	60	28	69	62	47	75	853
Punts	3	4	2	2	2	3	2	2	8	6	5	4	10	4	6	4	67
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	29:46	29:57	23:09	28:52	33:38	21:52	17:51	33:27	31:42	23:42	32:43	30:20	28:39	29:57	32:23	30:41	28:37
Total net yards	335	318	334	442	331	287	267	372	370	278	457	347	204	241	238	377	5198
Rushing yards	154	138	102	164	143	42	85	164	88	29	104	174	109	94	81	130	1801
Passing yards	181	180	232	278	188	245	182	208	282	249	353	173	95	147	157	247	3397
Rushing plays	26	29	25	25	35	14	10	34	29	17	36	33	26	27	23	25	414
Sacks allowed	5	4	3	3	1	2	4	0	4	3	1	3	9	4	3	1	50
Had intercepted	0	2	0	0	1	4	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	15
Fumbles lost	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	9
Yards penalized	60	57	21	40	40	75	20	53	66	39	20	30	81	93	47	71	813
Punts	4	7	4	4	5	4	5	3	6	9	3	5	6	6	9	5	85
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
R. Brown	4-7-0	3-10-0	3-6-0	3-15-0			1-4-0	1-4-1	1-4-0	1-6-0		2-11-0	3-4-0	6-18-0	8-33-0	6-14-0	42-136-1
D. Jackson		1-0-0	1-3-0		1-(-4)-0			1-10-0				1-5-0			2-27-0		7-41-0
Lewis	2-10-0		1-3-0		2-8-0	2-10-0			1-2-0	1-1-0				2-10-0		12-58-1	23-102-1
McCoy	15-122-1	18-95-2	24-128-1	9-18-0	11-80-1	28-126-1	30-185-2	16-71-1	14-81-1	23-113-0	10-31-1	17-84-1	27-38-2	18-102-3	13-35-0		273-1309-17
Vick	11-97-0	6-25-0	7-31-0	8-75-0	6-90-0	7-54-0	7-50-0	5-34-0	8-79-0				2-9-0	5-32-1	3-10-0	1-3-0	76-589-1
Young						1-2-0				6-5-0	6-40-0	5-32-0					18-79-0
**PASSING ** **																	
Kafka		7-9-0 72-0	4-7-2 35-0														11-16-2 107-0
Vick	14-32-0 187-2	19-28-1 242-2	16-23-1 176-0	30-46-1 416-2	26-40-4 315-2	18-31-1 237-1	21-28-0 279-2	21-38-1 213-0	16-34-2 128-0				15-30-1 208-1	15-22-1 274-1	18-32-0 293-2	24-39-1 335-3	253-423-14 3303-18
Young						0-1-1 0-0				23-36-3 258-2	26-48-1 400-1	17-29-4 208-1					66-114-9 866-4
RECEIVING																	
Avant	3-40-0	1-29-0	4-33-0	6-69-0	9-139-0	3-28-0	5-74-0	2-20-0	1-2-0	1-13-0	8-110-1	1-10-0	2-35-0		2-35-0	4-42-0	52-679-1
Celek	1-13-0	4-43-0	2-9-0	1-2-0	1-6-0	4-42-1	7-94-1	7-60-0	4-53-0	6-60-0	5-75-0	3-21-0	4-39-0	5-156-1	2-52-1	6-86-1	62-811-5
Cooper										5-75-1	3-71-0	5-94-0	1-29-0	1-18-0	1-28-0		16-315-1
Harbor			1-17-0	3-55-1	1-3-0		1-11-0	1-8-0		1-6-0	1-25-0			2-20-0	1-9-0	1-9-0	13-163-1
D. Jackson	6-102-1	2-21-0	2-30-0	6-171-0	5-86-1	3-46-0	3-31-0	2-16-0		6-88-0	4-73-0	4-34-0	4-59-1	2-28-0	5-90-0	4-86-1	58-961-4
Maclin	1-20-0	13-171-2	5-69-0	7-74-0	6-54-1	5-101-0	3-54-1	4-63-0	2-6-0				1-13-0	3-57-0	5-72-1	8-105-0	63-859-5
McCoy	2-15-1	4-21-0	3-13-0	6-34-1	4-27-0	2-13-0	2-15-0	5-46-0	3-12-0	3-2-0	4-30-0	4-49-1	3-33-0	2-(-5)-0	1-10-0		48-315-3
Smith		2-29-0	2-27-0			1-7-0			5-47-0	1-14-1							11-124-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

That's less of a worry with the LB improvements, but the line still must improve its gap responsibility. DE Jason Babin was a terror on the edge, racking up 18 sacks and forcing teams to commit a second blocker his way. He's not a great run defender, but Babin did exactly what the team hoped. DE Trent Cole had another standout season, finishing stronger than he had in years past when his lack of bulk often would cause to him wear down. He's a tenacious rusher and has improved his outside contain against running plays. DT Cullen Jenkins is a strong penetrator and good run defender who makes more big plays than many three-techniques. He's paired with Mike Patterson, a lunch-pail defender who does little special, and first-rounder Fletcher Cox, who could cut into Patterson's snaps. Cox has the chance to be special with rare athleticism but must mature and develop under Washburn. There is some serious depth here. DE Brandon Graham's career has been derailed by injuries, but it's too soon to write him off. A year removed from microfracture surgery, he could prove to be a nice piece as a high-effort rusher. Throw in Darryl Tapp and high-motor second-rounder Vinny Curry, and the Eagles can send waves of pass rushers at opponents.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Fletcher Cox	DT	Mississippi State	12
2	Mychal Kendricks	SLB	California	46
2	Vinny Curry	DE	Marshall	59
3	Nick Foles	QB	Arizona	88
4	Brandon Boykin	CB	Georgia	123
5	Dennis Kelly	OT	Purdue	153
6	Marvin McNutt	WR	Iowa	194
6	Brandon Washington	OG	Miami (Fla.)	200
7	Bryce Brown	RB	ex-Kansas State	229

F. COX

LINEBACKERS

Don't be surprised if there is vast improvement with the additions of MLB DeMeco Ryans and second-rounder Mychal Kendricks. Miscast in the Texans' 3-4 defense, Ryans returns to a 4-3 unit, which is the alignment in which he had his most fruitful seasons. He'll be more than a year removed from Achilles surgery and should bounce back as a tackle machine. He's instinctive, able to sniff out run plays based on formation, tendency and with his high football IQ. Ryans also is a locker-room leader on a defense that sorely lacked one. Kendricks will be tried first on the strong side but could play either OLB spot. He's a ferocious, fast thumper whose biggest detractions are size and durability, given his style. Jamar Chaney was miscast inside but could battle for the "Will" spot with Brian Rolle. No matter who wins the job, the Eagles might have the shortest starting LB unit in the NFL, all hovering around six feet tall. Chaney moves well and handles pass assignments well. Rolle must be covered up to be effective, but he is a fast-flow hitter who can cover and make plays against the run. Akeem Jordan and Casey Matthews are best as reserves. Jordan played well late but is not special and never will be. Matthews struggled mightily at times but improved slightly and can carve out a role as a sub-package defender and special-teamer.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The team has great length at corner with Nnamdi Asomugha and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, but each is coming off a disappointing season. Asomugha, a great press player, struggled to adapt to the heavy doses of zone and off coverage. He allowed several big plays and showed surprisingly poor instincts with the ball in the air. But with a scheme that better fits his skills, Asomugha is in line for a bounce-back season. He can shut down receivers if he can extend his arms and jolt them at the line. Rodgers-Cromartie is a special athlete but not physical for his size and can leave plays on the field. He flips his hips well and can run with smaller wideouts and should start on the left side after being used mostly in nickel last season. There is good depth with veteran Joselio Hanson, who has spent

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	**18 MACLIN**	14 R. Cooper	16 Hall	
OLT	**77 BELL**	65 Dunlap	71 Peters	
OLG	**69 MATHIS**	64 Gibson	66 Reynolds	
C	**62 KELCE**	68 Vallos		
ORG	**63 WATKINS**	73 Vandervelde	78 Washington*	
ORT	**79 HERREMANS**	67 Kelly*	72 Welch	
TE	**87 CELEK**	82 Harbor		
WR	**10 JACKSON**	81 Avant	83 McNutt*	
QB	**7 VICK**	11 Edwards	9 Foles*	
RB	**25 McCOY**	28 Lewis	34 Brown*	
FB	**39 HAVILI**			
DEFENSE				
DLE	**93 BABIN**	54 Graham		
DLT	**97 JENKINS**	90 Dixon	94 Landri	
DRT	**98 PATTERSON**	91 Cox*		
DRE	**58 COLE**	55 Tapp	75 Curry*	
SLB	**95 KENDRICKS***	56 Jordan	53 Fokou	
MLB	**59 RYANS**	50 Matthews	96 Lloyd	
WLB	**52 ROLLE**	51 Chaney	57 Clayton	
LCB	**23 RODGERS-CROMARTIE**	31 Marsh	22 Boykin*	
RCB	**24 ASOMUGHA**	21 Hanson	27 Hughes	
SS	**42 COLEMAN**	26 Jarrett		
FS	**29 ALLEN**	30 Anderson		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**8 HENRY**	4 Tydlacka*		
PK	**6 HENERY**			
H	**8 HENRY**			
PR	**22 BOYKIN***	10 Jackson	16 Hall	
KR	**22 BOYKIN***	28 Lewis	16 Hall	
LS	**46 DORENBOS**	47 Camilli*		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Andy Reid, head coach/executive VP football operations; Marty Mornhinweg, asst. head coach/offensive coordinator; Juan Castillo, defensive coordinator; Bobby April, special-teams coordinator; Bob April, defensive quality control; Todd Bowles, secondary; Mike Caldwell, linebackers; David Culley, senior offensive assistant/wide receivers; Keith Gray, asst. strength & conditioning; Tom Melvin, tight ends; Howard Mudd, offensive line; Matt Nagy, offensive quality control; Doug Pederson, quarterbacks; Barry Rubin, head strength & conditioning; Duce Staley, special-teams quality control; Jim Washburn, defensive line; Ted Williams, running backs; Michael Zordich, secondary/safeties.

time in nickel and outside, and youngsters Curtis Marsh and Brandon Boykin, a playmaker with the ball in his hands. FS Nate Allen struggled coming off knee surgery but rallied late and showed he still can be an impact deep-halves defender. The SS position likely will be battled out between Jaiquawn Jarrett and Kurt Coleman. Jarrett has a reputation as a big hitter, but he looked lost in his limited chances on defense as a rookie. Coleman knows the position better but is overmatched at times.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Alex Henery struggled early, perhaps burdened by having to replace David Akers, but finished with 16 FG makes in a row. He has a big leg, can boom kickoffs and appears to have a bright future. P Alex Henry has a good leg but battled inconsistency as a rookie. He could be challenged in camp by undrafted P Ryan Tydlacka, out of Kentucky. The return teams were an underrated detriment to the team's field position. The team gained 7.1 yards per punt return (throw out a 51-yarder by DeSean Jackson and a 30-yarder by Chad Hall and it drops to 4.7) and 20.9 on kickoffs (with a long of 33). Jackson likely won't handle punts full time and Dion Lewis likely will get competition on kickoffs. Rookie Brandon Boykin (five career TD returns in college) will be tried at both spots. The coverage units were mostly excellent, but ace Colt Anderson is coming off a torn ACL.

SUMMARY

The Eagles might be one of the top five or six teams in the NFL in terms of pure talent. They have a dangerous quarterback with weapons around him, difference makers on defense and a coach in Andy Reid who has averaged more than 10 wins since arriving in 1999. Forget the bitter pill that was 2011 and the talk of a "Dream Team." The dream could be deferred to now with some additions that could bring the whole thing together. Michael Vick must prove he can take his game to the next level, and the defense must do the same collectively, but this is a dangerous team with few glaring personnel weaknesses.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
	Akpla, Elvis	WR	6-1	190	R	Montana State	
29	Allen, Nate	S	6-1	210	3	South Florida	15/12
30	Anderson, Colt	S	5-10	194	3	Montana	12/0
24	Asomugha, Nnamdi	CB	6-2	210	10	California	16/15
81	Avant, Jason	WR	6-0	212	7	Michigan	16/7
93	Babin, Jason	DE	6-3	267	9	Western Michigan	16/16
77	Bell, Demetress	OT	6-5	311	5	Northwestern St. (La.)	7/6
22	Boykin, Brandon	CB	5-9	182	R	Georgia	
85	Brackett, Brett	TE	6-5	246	1	Penn State	0/0
34	Brown, Bryce	RB	6-0	223	R	Kansas State	
47	Camilli, Matt	LS	6-4	245	R	UTEP	
87	Celek, Brent	TE	6-4	255	6	Cincinnati	16/16
51	Chaney, Jamar	LB	6-0	242	3	Mississippi State	16/16
57	Clayton, Keenan	LB	6-1	229	3	Oklahoma	14/0
42	Coleman, Kurt	FS	5-11	195	3	Ohio State	15/13
58	Cole, Trent	DE	6-3	270	8	Cincinnati	14/14
43	Cooper, Graig	RB	5-10	205	1	Miami (Fla.)	0/0
14	Cooper, Riley	WR	6-3	222	3	Florida	16/3
91	Cox, Fletcher	DT	6-4	298	R	Mississippi State	
75	Curry, Vinny	DE	6-3	266	R	Marshall	
90	Dixon, Antonio	DT	6-3	322	4	Miami (Fla.)	4/0
46	Dorenbos, Jon	LS	6-0	250	10	Texas-El Paso	16/0
65	Dunlap, King	OT	6-9	330	5	Auburn	12/2
11	Edwards, Trent	QB	6-4	230	5	Stanford	0/0
53	Fokou, Moise	OLB	6-1	236	4	Maryland	11/7
9	Foles, Nick	QB	6-6	243	R	Arizona	
	Ford, Chase	TE	6-6	245	R	Miami (Fla.)	
77	Fountain, Maurice	DE	6-4	270	1	Clemson	0/0
64	Gibson, Mike	OG-C	6-3	298	4	California	3/0
	Gilyard, Mardy	WR	6-1	187	2	Cincinnati	0/0
54	Graham, Brandon	DE	6-2	268	3	Michigan	3/0
16	Hall, Chad	WR	5-8	187	3	Air Force	7/0
84	Hamler, Jamel	WR	6-2	195	1	Fresno State	0/0
21	Hanson, Joselio	CB	5-9	185	8	Texas Tech	16/1
82	Harbor, Clay	TE	6-3	252	3	Missouri State	16/3
	Harris, Cliff	CB	5-11	180	R	Oregon	
39	Havili, Stanley	FB	6-0	230	1	USC	0/0
6	Henery, Alex	PK	6-1	177	2	Nebraska	16/0
8	Henry, Chas	P	6-3	220	2	Florida	16/0
79	Herremans, Todd	OT	6-6	321	8	Saginaw Valley State	16/16
27	Hughes, Brandon	CB	5-11	188	4	Oregon State	13/1
76	Hunt, Phillip	DE	6-0	244	2	Houston	9/0
	Igwenagu, Emil	FB	6-2	245	R	Massachusetts	
10	Jackson, DeSean	WR	5-10	175	5	California	15/15
	Jacobson, McKay	WR	5-11	199	R	Brigham Young	
26	Jarrett, Jaiquawn	S	6-0	196	2	Temple	12/2
97	Jenkins, Cullen	DT	6-2	305	9	Central Michigan	16/16
33	Johnson, D.J.	CB	6-1	191	3	Jackson State	0/0
	Johnson, Damaris	WR	5-8	175	R	Tulsa	
80	Johnson, Ronald	WR	5-10	185	1	USC	0/0
	Jones, D.J.	OT	6-5	310	1	Nebraska	0/0
56	Jordan, Akeem	OLB	6-1	230	6	James Madison	15/7
3	Kafka, Mike	QB	6-3	225	3	Northwestern	4/0
62	Kelce, Jason	C	6-3	282	2	Cincinnati	16/16
67	Kelly, Dennis	OT	6-8	321	R	Purdue	
95	Kendricks, Mychal	LB	5-11	239	R	California	
94	Landri, Derek	DT	6-2	290	6	Notre Dame	12/0
28	Lewis, Dion	RB	5-8	195	2	Pittsburgh	15/0
35	Lindley, Trevard	CB	6-0	183	2	Kentucky	0/0
96	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-1	247	1	Connecticut	0/0
18	Maclin, Jeremy	WR	6-0	198	4	Missouri	13/13
31	Marsh, Curtis	CB	6-1	197	2	Utah State	7/0
69	Mathis, Evan	OG	6-5	302	8	Alabama	15/15
50	Matthews, Casey	LB	6-1	232	2	Oregon	16/3
25	McCoy, LeSean	RB	5-11	208	4	Pittsburgh	15/15
83	McNutt, Marvin	WR	6-3	216	R	Iowa	
49	Nelson, Tom	S	5-11	200	3	Illinois State	4/0
98	Patterson, Mike	DT	6-1	300	8	USC	15/15
71	Peters, Jason	OT	6-4	328	9	Arkansas	14/14
	Pflugrad, Aaron	WR	5-10	182	R	Arizona State	
66	Reynolds, Dallas	OG-C	6-4	320	1	Brigham Young	0/0
23	Rodgers-Cromartie, Dominique	CB	6-2	182	5	Tennessee State	13/3
52	Rolle, Brian	LB	5-10	227	2	Ohio State	16/13
59	Ryans, DeMeco	LB	6-1	247	7	Alabama	16/16
	Simmons, Monte	LB	6-3	226	1	Kent State	0/0
	Stewart, Jeremy	FB	6-1	218	R	Stanford	
55	Tapp, Darryl	DE	6-1	270	7	Virginia Tech	12/2
61	Taylor, Zane	C	6-2	309	1	Utah	0/0
	Thomas, Phillip	FS	5-11	198	R	Syracuse	
72	Thornton, Cedric	DT	6-4	309	1	Southern Arkansas	0/0
4	Tydlacka, Ryan	P	6-1	190	R	Kentucky	
68	Vallos, Steve	C-OG	6-3	310	5	Wake Forest	1/0
73	Vandervelde, Julian	OG	6-2	300	2	Iowa	1/0
7	Vick, Michael	QB	6-0	215	11	Virginia Tech	13/13
78	Washington, Brandon	OG	6-2	320	R	Miami (Fla.)	
63	Watkins, Danny	OG	6-3	310	2	Baylor	12/12
72	Welch, Thomas	OT	6-6	300	2	Vanderbilt	4/0
	Williams, Darnell	WR	6-2	195	R	Louisiana College	

2 NEW YORK Giants

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 9-7 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

T. COUGHLIN

HEAD COACH: Tom Coughlin
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Gilbride
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Perry Fewell
OWNERS: John K. Mara and Steve Tisch
STADIUM: New Meadowlands Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 82,500
PLAYING SURFACE: FieldTurf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.giants.com

Maybe it's just the way the Giants work best. They can afford to get off to a hot start, struggle through the middle parts of the season, scratch and claw their way to a playoff bid ... and then go win the whole darned thing.

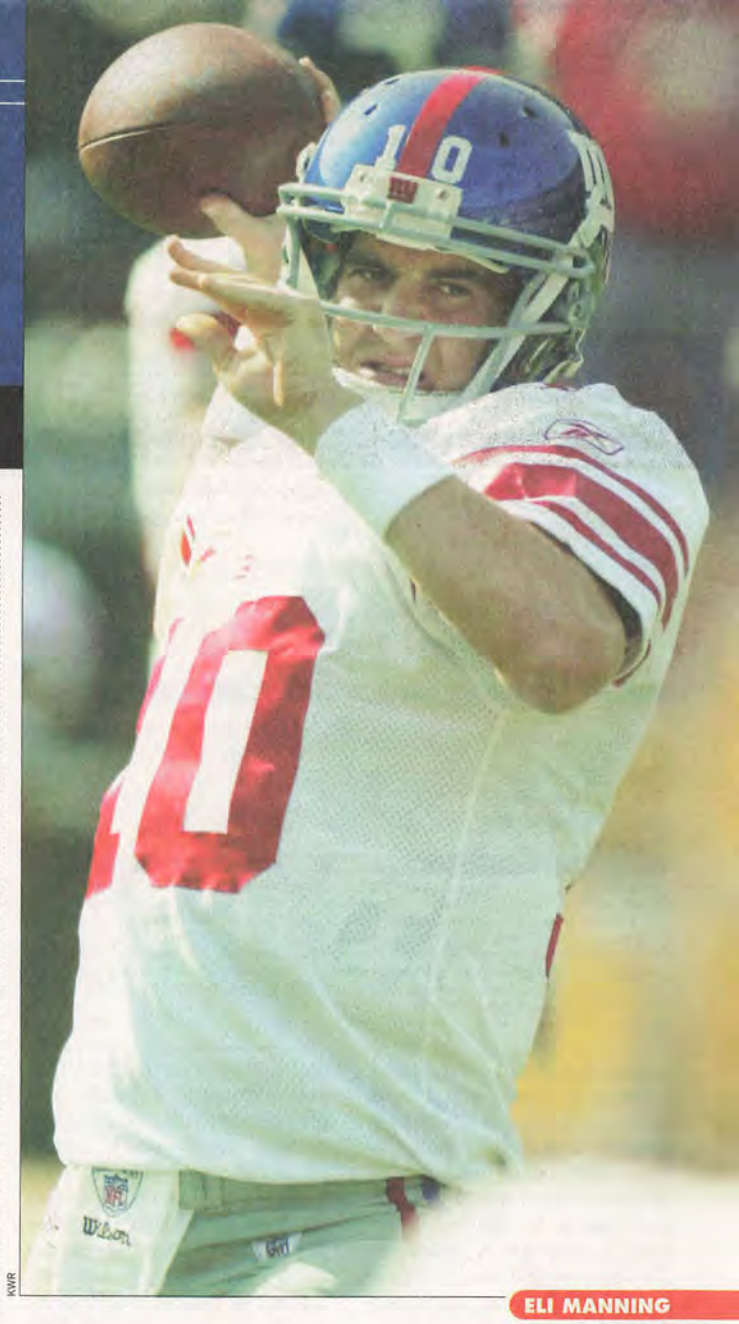
That's twice now the formula has worked for Tom Coughlin's team, which is coming off another Super Bowl title despite a mentally and physically taxing year and a 9-7 regular-season mark.

They were the best team in football when it mattered most, and some would say that's quite enough. The Giants certainly have their share of virtues — a franchise QB, a great coach and a fierce, attacking defense — but also have a few things they need to clean up if they want to repeat.

Injuries and age are issues at tight end and on the offensive and defensive lines, and depth at receiver and at running back loom as concerns. The Giants managed to not get gutted in free agency — typically the price a Super Bowl-winning team pays — but also have a few roles to fill.

Eli Manning has been up and down in his career, but there's little question that he entered the elite category with his play last season. He made stars of WRs Hakeem Nicks and Victor Cruz and showed the toughness and leadership you want in a franchise quarterback.

Will the "D" build off the title run? Can this team be even better considering the litany of injuries it faced last season? The NFC East remains a proving ground, and the Giants will wear targets on their backs. But that's exactly how they like it.


KWR
ELI MANNING

OFFENSE

Kevin Gilbride has full confidence in Eli Manning running the vertical passing attack entering their sixth season together. The Giants have two primary weapons in the passing game — WRs Hakeem Nicks and Victor Cruz — but Manning has done a good job of getting the ball to the open receiver. They also mix in a dose of power running, operating confidently behind an offensive line that has undergone changes the past two seasons.

QUARTERBACKS

Eli Manning cut down on his turnovers (from 30 in 2010 to 20 last season), improved his yards per attempt by a full yard (7.4 to 8.4) and turned in his finest all-around season at the age of 30. He's still prone to a few clunker games, but Manning is a mentally and physically tough gunner who trusts his teammates to do their jobs and holds them accountable when they do not. He rarely appears rattled, and that on-field demeanor has become one of his hallmarks. Manning's downfield precision has been one of the areas he has improved the most in the middle of his career with more fruitful seasons ahead. Backup David Carr suits the Giants' needs, although Manning's durability has kept Carr planted to the bench in three of the past four years as the Giants' No. 2. If needed, Carr can draw on experience (10 seasons, 79 career starts), though he's not special physically and has a pedestrian arm.

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

TE Martellus Bennett, OT Sean Locklear, CB Antwaun Molden, LB Keith Rivers, DT Shaun Rogers.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

RB Brandon Jacobs, WR Mario Manningham, OT Kareem McKenzie, CB Aaron Ross, DE Dave Tollefson.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Eli Manning

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE Jason Pierre-Paul

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
OLT Will Beatty

POSITION BATTLE
ORT: Dave Diehl vs. James Brewer

E. MANNING J. PIERRE-PAUL

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
A	B-	A-	B-	A+	C+	B	B

RUNNING BACKS

The Giants let Brandon Jacobs walk in free agency and shouldn't be dramatically affected. Ahmad Bradshaw has fought through foot injuries, and though his numbers fell off from 2010, he was pretty consistent when on the field. Not the most creative runner, Bradshaw nonetheless runs with an edge, can hit a crease and is a nice fit in the scheme. Bradshaw has had limited success as a short-yardage runner, though, and there are no other obvious candidates to fill that role. Rookie David Wilson injects speed into the lineup, and he routinely turned two-yard losses into 10-yard gains at Virginia Tech. If Bradshaw struggles to stay healthy, Wilson would get the call — if he can improve his ball security from college. D.J. Ware earned a package of plays near the goal line but isn't dynamic and lacks breakaway speed. Da'Rel Scott has plenty of speed but is unproven and must hang on to the ball and make his mark on kick returns. Reserve Andre Brown is suspended for the first four games (performance-enhancing drugs) and might not make the roster. FB Henry Hynoski is a throwback blocker with pop who has limited running and receiving skills.

RECEIVERS

It's an interesting debate: Who is the better receiver — Victor Cruz or Hakeem Nicks? Cruz burst onto the scene with an improbable season, finishing third in the NFL in receiving yards (1,536) and logging five touchdowns of 65 yards or longer. His great lower-body strength and short-area quickness allowed him to turn short throws into long gains, and he developed into a hungry downfield receiver who can battle DBs for balls in the air. Cruz is most effective out of the slot, where he better can get away from press coverage. Nicks can go up and get it, too — and he's more physical than Cruz. Nicks rose up in the postseason and is a pivotal piece of the puzzle who still has upside, even if he lacks elite speed. His catching radius allows him to grab almost anything close. Don't be stunned if he outperforms Cruz statistically this season. The loss of No. 3 WR and playoff hero Mario Manningham opens the door for rookie Rueben Randle, Jerrel Jernigan, Ramses Barden and Domenik Hixon to step up. The latter two are injury-prone, and Jernigan barely played as a receiver as a rookie. Jernigan projects best to the slot and has some shiftiness. Randle came from a limited passing game at LSU but gained nearly 17 yards per catch. He is an outside receiver who is raw but talented. Whoever wins the job has a chance to be very productive with Manning pulling the trigger and with the injuries at tight end. TEs Travis Beckum and Jake Ballard both suffered torn ACLs in the Super Bowl and face long rehabs. Ballard became a weapon in the passing game, and it would be asking a lot for Martellus Bennett, Bear Pascoe or rookie Adrien Robinson to fill that same role. Bennett is physically gifted, but he underachieved in Dallas. Still, he will get the first crack to start and might make the most of his second chance.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

After years of stability here, changes will be afoot a second year in a row. ORT Kareem McKenzie is gone, opening a starting spot. David Diehl, who played left guard and left tackle last season and has filled in everwhere but center, could get the nod. He's gritty and competitive, though not overpowering. OLT Will Beatty quietly was putting together a nice season before suffering a season-ending eye injury. He has been cleared to play and has good feet, a nice reach and can deliver a decent kick-out block. Kevin Boothe could return to left guard, where he did a respectable job. He had a nearly clean sheet in nine starts (one sack allowed, zero penalties) and carried out his assignments well. C David Baas had a disappointing first season with the Giants but should have a better feel for things. Baas is a blue-collar scrapper, but quicker, stronger nose tackles gave him big fits. ORG Chris Snee is a perennial Pro Bowler who is coming off a good but not great season. He didn't play with as much gnarl as in the past, but by season's end he was back to a high level. If Diehl doesn't win the ORT job, it could go to James Brewer, a 2011 fourth-rounder who never saw the field as a rookie. Depth is good with OG-OT Sean Locklear, OG Mitch Petrus and rookie OTs Matt McCants and Brandon Mosley.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 5	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 20	at Carolina	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Philadelphia	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 7	Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at San Francisco	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 21	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Dallas	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 4	Pittsburgh	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	BYE	
Nov. 25	Green Bay	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 3	at Washington	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	New Orleans	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to New York Giants

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Washington	(-1.5)	14-28
Sept. 19	St. Louis	(-7)	28-16
Sept. 25	At Philadelphia	(+8)	29-16
Oct. 2	At Arizona	(-1)	31-27
Oct. 9	Seattle	(-10)	25-36
Oct. 16	Buffalo	(-3.5)	27-24
Oct. 23	BYE		
Oct. 30	Miami	(-9.5)	20-17
Nov. 6	At New England	(+9.5)	24-20
Nov. 13	At San Francisco	(+4)	20-27
Nov. 20	Philadelphia	(-6)	10-17
Nov. 28	At New Orleans	(+7)	24-49
Dec. 4	Green Bay	(+7)	35-38
Dec. 11	At Dallas	(+4.5)	37-34
Dec. 18	Washington	(-6)	10-23
Dec. 24	At New York Jets	(+2.5)	29-14
Jan. 1	Dallas	(-3)	31-14
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 8	Atlanta	(-3)	24-2
Jan. 15	At Green Bay	(+8.5)	37-20
Jan. 22	At San Francisco	(+2)	20-17*
Feb. 5	New England	(+3)	21-17

* Overtime

DEFENSE

It's a good thing the Giants didn't fire Perry Fewell, as fans chanted for around midseason. Fewell's unit had allowed 28 points to the Redskins, 27 to the Cardinals, 36 to the Seahawks and 24 to the Bills. Things tightened up before another later slip: 144 points (36 ppg) allowed to the Saints, Packers, Cowboys and Redskins through Week 15. But Fewell got his "D" to play its best down the stretch, getting back to what it does best. They mixed and matched front-four personnel, harrassed quarterbacks and played a lot of cover-2 and cover-3 on the back end. They'll do more of the same and have the personnel to be more consistently dominant.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Giants thrive with pressure from the edges, but also with creative stunts and twists. They have three tremendous rushers with Jason Pierre-Paul, Justin Tuck and Osi Umenyiora. Pierre-Paul took a big step forward in

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	@WASH.	ST.L.	@PHIL.	@ARIZ.	SEA.	BUFF.	MIA.	@N.E.	@S.F.	PHIL.	@N.O.	G.B.	@DALL.	WASH.	@N.Y.J.	DALL.	
Score	14-28	28-16	29-16	31-27	25-36	27-24	20-17	24-20	20-27	10-17	24-49	35-38	37-34	10-23	29-14	31-14	
Total net yards	315	323	334	360	464	414	402	361	395	278	465	447	510	324	332	437	6161
Rushing yards	75	119	102	54	69	122	58	111	93	29	73	100	110	91	115	106	1427
Passing yards	240	204	232	306	395	292	344	250	302	249	392	347	400	233	217	331	4734
Rushing plays	20	38	25	24	25	33	23	29	29	17	22	20	31	18	26	31	411
Sacks allowed	4	3	3	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	3	2	2	28
Had intercepted	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	0	16
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	8
Yards penalized	63	55	21	55	52	79	46	50	45	39	32	55	55	75	45	28	795
Punts	6	7	4	5	7	3	4	8	2	9	2	4	4	4	9	4	82
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	32:36	25:48	36:51	31:59	28:46	29:13	27:34	29:43	25:23	36:18	28:32	33:03	25:41	35:00	36:06	25:27	30:30
Total net yards	332	367	376	368	424	374	246	438	305	391	577	449	444	300	331	300	6022
Rushing yards	74	59	177	156	145	155	145	106	77	136	205	89	139	123	105	49	1940
Passing yards	258	308	199	212	279	219	101	332	228	255	372	360	305	177	226	251	4082
Rushing plays	26	19	40	32	29	23	26	24	20	33	30	28	24	40	25	16	435
Sacks allowed	4	2	2	4	6	3	5	2	2	1	0	2	3	1	5	6	48
Had intercepted	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	20
Fumbles lost	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	11
Yards penalized	25	62	36	118	70	75	30	81	35	30	104	30	51	48	95	43	933
Punts	6	7	2	4	7	3	5	5	3	6	2	5	3	2	9	6	75
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Bradshaw	13-44-1	15-59-0	15-86-0	12-39-1	17-58-0	26-104-3	13-50-0					11-38-0	8-12-0	10-58-1	15-54-2	16-57-1	171-659-9
Jacobs	6-29-0	16-50-1	7-19-0	9-18-1			4-10-0	18-72-1	18-55-0	12-21-0	13-46-1	8-59-1	19-101-2	8-33-0	7-42-0	7-16-0	152-571-7
Manning	1-2-1	4-(-12)-0	3-(-3)-0	3-(-3)-0	3-5-0	2-(-1)-0	4-(-3)-0	3-11-0	2-4-0		1-4-0		2-(-2)-0		1-(-1)-0	6-14-0	35-15-1
Scott								1-5-0		2-11-0	2-0-0						5-16-0
Ware		3-22-0			4-3-0	5-19-0	2-1-0	7-23-0	9-34-0	3-(-3)-0	5-23-0	1-3-0	2-(-1)-0		3-20-0	2-19-0	46-163-0
PASSING **																	
Manning	18-32-1 268-0	19-30-1 223-2	16-23-0 254-4	27-40-0 321-2	24-39-3 420-3	21-32-0 292-0	31-45-0 349-2	20-39-1 250-2	26-40-2 311-2	18-35-1 264-1	33-47-1 406-2	23-40-1 347-3	27-47-1 400-2	23-40-3 257-0	9-27-1 225-1	24-33-0 346-3	359-589-16 4933-29
RECEIVING																	
Ballard	2-59-0	1-13-0	1-15-0	3-33-1	3-72-1	5-81-0	4-55-0	4-67-1	3-35-0	1-13-0	3-47-0	3-47-0	4-52-1	1-15-0			38-604-4
Barden								2-24-0		1-13-0	3-38-0	1-9-0		1-6-0	1-4-0		9-94-0
Beckum			1-2-0									1-67-1	1-11-0			2-13-0	5-93-1
Bradshaw	1-10-0	5-45-0	5-53-1	4-11-0	2-27-0	2-26-0	5-38-0					2-9-0	1-7-0	3-21-0	1-8-0	3-12-1	34-267-2
Cruz		2-17-0	3-110-2	6-98-0	8-161-1	2-12-0	7-99-1	6-91-0	6-84-0	6-128-1	9-157-2	7-119-0	6-74-0	5-44-0	3-164-1	6-178-1	82-1536-9
Hixon	2-21-0	2-29-1															4-50-1
Hynoski	1-4-0	1-8-0		1-5-0							1-10-0		2-12-0	2-13-0		4-31-0	12-83-0
Jacobs		1-17-0	2-42-1	1-0-0			1-0-0	4-28-0	2-17-0	3-11-0					1-13-0		15-128-1
Manningham	4-49-0	3-56-0		1-10-0	5-56-0	5-56-0	6-63-1	3-33-1	6-77-1	1-4-0			2-62-1	3-57-0			39-523-4
Nicks	7-122-0	4-38-1	3-25-0	10-162-1	4-65-1	4-96-0	6-67-0		2-41-1	3-69-0	7-87-0	7-88-2	8-163-0	5-73-0	1-20-0	5-76-1	76-1192-7
Pascoe					1-17-0	2-17-0	1-22-0	1-7-0	2-23-0		1-10-0			2-26-0		2-14-0	12-136-0
Scott						1-4-0				1-9-0							2-13-0
Ware	1-3-0			1-2-0	1-22-0		1-5-0		5-34-0	2-17-0	8-45-0	2-8-0	3-19-0	1-2-0	1-5-0	1-8-0	27-170-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

his second season, becoming perhaps the most electric edge rusher in the NFL. He has vines for arms, a lightning-quick first step, great natural leverage and strong hands. Although Pierre-Paul has improved his recognition tremendously, he still can get fooled. But his attention to detail and phenomenal athletic skill make him a defensive MVP candidate. Tuck was beset by injuries and played through pain but rose up late when his team needed him most. Expect a far more consistent season with better health. He can collapse the pocket, rush from inside and out and makes plays on the ball. Umenyiora is in slight decline, but he's an effective rotation rusher who can dominate on occasion. He averaged a sack a game in an injury-plagued season at age 30. Throw in Mathias Kiwanuka, a hybrid linebacker-pass rusher, and the ability to get after the passer is downright fearsome. The unit is solidified inside by DTs Chris Canty, Linval Joseph, Shaun Rogers and Marcus Kuhn, and could get a boost from Marvin Austin, last year's second-rounder who hasn't played a football game in more than two years. Canty is dependable and stout. Joseph started to show some penetration skills and improvement against the run. Rogers is strictly a nose but can be immovable. Austin could be a great penetrator with more incubation in the system.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	David Wilson	RB	Virginia Tech	32
2	Rueben Randle	WR	LSU	63
3	Jayron Hosley	CB	Virginia Tech	94
4	Adrien Robinson	TE	Cincinnati	127
4	Brandon Mosley	OT	Auburn	131
6	Matt McCants	OT	Alabama-Birmingham	201
7	Marcus Kuhn	DT	North Carolina State	239

D. WILSON

LINEBACKERS

This might have been the weakest spot on defense last season, but it rounded into shape. Michael Boley regained his form as a playmaker on the weak side, and the defense looked worse when he was not on the field. With the addition of Keith Rivers, Boley might be shifted inside. He needs to be protected, but he covers a lot of ground, has handled some of the defensive calls and has a nose for the ball. Rivers is best on the weak side, and he offers great athleticism. But staying healthy has been a problem — he missed all of last season with a wrist injury — and Rivers' speed didn't translate to great production his first three pro seasons with the Bengals. Mathias Kiwanuka started showing his presence down the stretch and has the potential to be great in his combo role. Chase Blackburn came off the couch to rescue this group and can play any spot but primarily inside. There is youth and promise in Jacquian Williams, Mark Herzlich, Greg Jones and Spencer Paysinger. Williams is fast and played in sub packages, overcoming early hiccups. Herzlich was a special-teams staple and has the heart and desire to stick. Jones is a decent run stopper, but he was blistered in coverage early after being thrown to the wolves.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Considering the injuries this unit faced, it should be in fine shape to be stronger now. CB Terrell Thomas returns from a torn ACL to man a starting position. He's not fast, but Thomas is tough, physical and smart, able to reroute receivers and make more big plays on the ball in his career than scouts expected when he came out of USC. Keep an eye on his mobility — planting, cutting and flipping his hips — considering the injury. Corey Webster starts opposite him. He can lock down big and fast receivers, is fluid and athletic and answered critics about his subpar hands with six interceptions in 2011. Webster still doesn't get his proper due. The Giants used a three-safety "big nickel" package much of the time, featuring Antrel Rolle, Kenny Phillips and Deon Grant. Rolle is versatile as a former corner, able to cover the slot. Phillips is approaching his pre-knee surgery form of two years

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	80 CRUZ	12 Jernigan	87 Hixon	
OLT	65 BEATTY	60 Capers	Mosley*	
OLG	77 BOOTHE	75 Locklear		
C	64 BAAS	63 Cordle		
ORG	76 SNEE	62 Petrus		
ORT	66 DIEHL	73 Brewer	McCants*	
TE	89 BENNETT	Robinson*	85 Ballard	
WR	88 NICKS	Randle*	13 Barden	
QB	10 MANNING	8 Carr	17 Perrilloux	
RB	44 BRADSHAW	34 Wilson*	28 Ware	
FB	45 HYNOSKI	86 Pascoe		
DEFENSE				
DLE	91 TUCK	69 Trattou		
DLT	97 JOSEPH	95 Rogers	Kuhn*	
DRT	99 CANTY	96 Austin		
DRE	90 PIERRE-PAUL	72 Umenyiora		
SLB	94 KIWANUKA	52 Sintim	58 Herzlich	
MLB	59 BOLEY	93 Blackburn	53 G. Jones	
WLB	55 RIVERS	57 Williams	49 Paysinger	
LCB	23 WEBSTER	20 Amukamara	22 Molden	
RCB	24 THOMAS	Hosley*	29 Witherspoon	
SS	21 PHILLIPS	39 Sash	35 C. Jones	
FS	26 ROLLE	41 Horton	27 S. Brown	
SPECIALISTS				
P	5 WEATHERFORD			
PK	9 TYNES			
H	5 WEATHERFORD	8 Carr		
PR	12 JERNIGAN	Hosley*		
KR	12 JERNIGAN	33 Scott	34 Wilson*	
LS	51 DeOSSIE			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Perry Fewell, defensive coordinator; Pat Flaherty, offensive line; Jerald Ingram, running backs; Kevin Gilbride, offensive coordinator; Kevin M. Gilbride, wide receivers; Peter Giunta, secondary/corners; Jim Herrmann, linebackers; Al Holcomb, defensive assistant; Larry Izzo, asst. special-team; David Merritt, secondary/safeties; Robert Nunn, defensive line; Jerry Palmieri, strength and conditioning; Markus Paul, asst. strength and conditioning; Mike Pope, tight ends; Tom Quinn, special-teams coordinator; Matt Rhule, asst. offensive line; Sean Ryan, quarterbacks; Lunda Wells, offensive assistant.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
20	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-0	207	2	Nebraska	7/0
96	Austin, Marvin	DT	6-2	312	2	North Carolina	0/0
64	Baas, David	C	6-4	312	8	Michigan	11/11
85	Ballard, Jake	TE	6-6	275	3	Ohio State	14/13
13	Barden, Ramses	WR	6-6	227	4	Cal Poly-S.L.O.	8/0
65	Beatty, Will	OT	6-6	319	4	Connecticut	10/10
47	Beckum, Travis	TE	6-3	234	4	Wisconsin	13/0
89	Bennett, Martellus	TE	6-6	270	5	Texas A&M	14/7
31	Bing, Brandon	CB	5-11	177	1	Rutgers	0/0
93	Blackburn, Chase	LB	6-4	242	8	Akron	5/4
59	Boley, Michael	LB	6-3	230	8	Southern Mississippi	14/13
77	Boothe, Kevin	OG	6-5	320	7	Cornell	16/9
44	Bradshaw, Ahmad	RB	5-10	214	6	Marshall	12/9
73	Brewer, James	OT	6-6	330	2	Indiana	0/0
35	Brown, Andre	RB	6-0	227	3	North Carolina State	0/0
27	Brown, Stevie	S	5-11	221	3	Michigan	8/0
99	Canty, Chris	DT	6-7	317	8	Virginia	16/16
60	Capers, Selvish	OT	6-5	315	2	West Virginia	0/0
8	Carr, David	QB	6-3	212	11	Fresno State	0/0
37	Coe, Michael	CB	6-0	187	5	Alabama State	10/0
63	Cordle, Jim	C	6-3	320	2	Ohio State	9/0
80	Cruz, Victor	WR	6-0	204	3	Massachusetts	16/7
51	DeOssie, Zak	LS	6-4	249	6	Brown	16/0
15	DePalma, Dan	WR	5-11	192	1	West Chester (Pa.)	0/0
66	Diehl, David	OT	6-5	304	10	Illinois	16/16
46	Donnell, Larry	TE	6-6	269	1	Grambling State	0/0
74	Hendricks, Dwayne	DT	6-3	305	1	Miami (Fla.)	1/0
58	Herzlich, Mark	LB	6-4	246	2	Boston College	11/2
87	Hixon, Domenik	WR	6-2	197	7	Akron	2/0
84	Hopkins, Christian	TE	6-5	277	1	Toledo	0/0
41	Horton, Chris	S	6-1	221	5	UCLA	0/0
	Hosley, Jayron	CB	5-10	178	R	Virginia Tech	
45	Hynoski, Henry	FB	6-1	266	2	Pittsburgh	11/4
12	Jernigan, Jerrel	WR	5-8	189	2	Troy	8/0
25	Johnson, Bruce	CB	5-11	182	4	Miami (Fla.)	0/0
35	Jones, Chad	S	6-2	221	1	LSU	0/0
53	Jones, Greg	LB	6-0	248	2	Michigan State	16/5
97	Joseph, Linval	DT	6-4	323	3	East Carolina	16/15
94	Kiwanuka, Mathias	LB	6-5	267	7	Boston College	16/15
	Kuhn, Markus	DT	6-5	299	R	North Carolina State	
75	Locklear, Sean	OL	6-4	310	9	North Carolina State	8/4
10	Manning, Eli	QB	6-4	218	9	Mississippi	16/16
70	Marshall, Craig	DE	6-4	280	1	South Florida	0/0
	McCants, Matthew	OT	6-5	309	R	Alabama-Birmingham	
22	Molden, Antwaun	CB	6-1	198	5	Eastern Kentucky	16/2
	Mosley, Brandon	OT	6-5	318	R	Auburn	
88	Nicks, Hakeem	WR	6-1	208	4	North Carolina	15/15
79	Parker, Martin	DT	6-2	303	1	Richmond	0/0
86	Pascoe, Bear	TE-FB	6-5	283	4	Fresno State	16/11
49	Paysinger, Spencer	LB	6-2	236	2	Oregon	15/0
17	Perrilloux, Ryan	QB	6-3	204	1	Jacksonville St. (Ala.)	0/0
62	Petrus, Mitch	OG	6-3	315	3	Arkansas	6/3
21	Phillips, Kenny	S	6-2	217	5	Miami (Fla.)	15/15
90	Pierre-Paul, Jason	DE	6-5	278	3	South Florida	16/12
83	Purvis, Ryan	TE	6-4	261	3	Boston College	0/0
	Randle, Rueben	WR	6-2	208	R	LSU	
68	Reinders, Joel	OT	6-8	317	1	Waterloo (Ontario)	0/0
55	Rivers, Keith	LB	6-2	242	5	USC	0/0
	Robinson, Adrien	TE	6-4	264	R	Cincinnati	
95	Rogers, Shaun	DT	6-4	350	12	Texas	16/4
26	Rolle, Antrel	S	6-0	206	7	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
39	Sash, Tyler	S	6-0	215	2	Iowa	16/0
33	Scott, Da'rel	RB	5-11	210	2	Maryland	11/0
52	Sintim, Clint	LB	6-3	246	4	Virginia	0/0
76	Snee, Chris	OG	6-3	305	9	Boston College	15/15
18	Stanback, Isaiah	WR	6-2	228	6	Washington	0/0
24	Thomas, Terrell	DB	6-0	191	5	USC	0/0
98	Tracy, Adrian	LB	6-2	245	3	William & Mary	0/0
69	Trattou, Justin	DE	6-4	255	2	Florida	6/0
30	Tryon, Justin	DB	5-9	183	5	Arizona State	3/0
91	Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	268	8	Notre Dame	12/11
9	Tynes, Lawrence	PK	6-1	194	9	Troy	16/0
72	Umenyiora, Osi	DE	6-3	255	10	Troy	9/7
28	Ware, D.J.	RB	6-0	225	6	Georgia	16/1
5	Weatherford, Steve	P	6-2	211	8	Illinois	16/0
23	Webster, Corey	CB	6-0	200	8	LSU	16/16
61	White, Chris	OG	6-2	303	8	Southern Mississippi	0/0
57	Williams, Jacquian	LB	6-3	224	2	South Florida	16/2
34	Wilson, David	RB	5-9	205	R	Virginia Tech	
29	Witherspoon, Brian	CB	5-10	180	4	Stillman (Ala.)	0/0

ago. The blown coverages were few and far between by season's end, and continued development of CB Prince Amukamara and S Tyler Sash (and rookie CB Jayron Hosley) could give them great depth. Amukamara showed flashes but needs better confidence and isn't a true ballhawk. Grant has yet to re-sign but could be back; if not, Sash could take his spot. Hosley has good speed and nickel experience. CBs Bruce Johnson and Brian Weatherspoon are coming off injuries, and the team signed reserve safeties Chris Horton and Stevie Brown for depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Huge improvements in this area were subtle but important elements of the championship run. The return units could use a boost, and there are no Pro Bowl-caliber standouts on these groups, but overall it's a strong unit. Tyler Sash, Spencer Paysinger, Mark Herzlich and Greg Jones helped shore up the coverage, and P Steve Weatherford was an important addition. His directional punting in the NFC title game and Super Bowl was superb. PK Lawrence Tynes is consistent, is cool in game-ending situations and also does well on kickoffs. Jerrel Jernigan (punts) and Da'Rel Scott (kickoffs) were a mixed bag as returners, so expect a little camp competition from rookies David Wilson (kickoffs) and Jayron Hosley (punts).

SUMMARY

The Giants made little noise in the offseason, which is their style. And guess what — it works. They have a championship nucleus: a star QB with ice in his veins, a dominating D-line, two standout receivers, solid special teams and complementary parts all around. Throw in good coaching and underrated, team-first players, and you have a team that's capable of making another run. They were stronger and more consistent following the 2007 championship prior to losing in the first round of the playoffs the next year. The Giants would prefer not to wait for their excellence to kick in, but it begs the question: Why mess with a tried-and-true formula?

3 DALLAS Cowboys

2012 PREDICTION: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. GARRETT

HEAD COACH: Jason Garrett
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Callahan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rob Ryan
OWNER/PRESIDENT/GM: Jerry Jones
STADIUM: Cowboys Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 80,000
PLAYING SURFACE: Matrix artificial turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.dallascowboys.com

Few things went quite the way the Cowboys expected last season.

They were in the thick of the playoff race until the regular season's final game, within a score of the eventual-champion Giants in the fourth quarter. But the Cowboys finished 8-8 — and out of the postseason mix.

They scored 23.1 points per game but allowed 21.7. Tony Romo had a huge statistical season but also a few hiccups in losses. The defense — expected to be strong under new coordinator Rob Ryan — finished seventh vs. the run and ninth in sacks but middle of the pack or worse in other key categories.

The belief is that this has been one of the league's most talented teams that has underachieved. But peel back a few layers, and you start to see that for every Romo or DeMarcus Ware, there also are a host of personnel questions and shortcomings.

The Cowboys tried to fix that this offseason. They signed six potential new starters — a group headlined by CB Brandon Carr, OGs Nate Livings and Mackenzy Bernadeau and S Brodney Pool. In the draft, the team made a bold trade to land CB Morris Claiborne, who could be outstanding.

But will it be enough? The window on Romo (who is 32) as a top-shelf quarterback is slowly closing, and Jason Garrett comes into this season with a little heat following some shaky coaching moments last season after being questioned by owner Jerry Jones. The NFC East is a battlefield, and the Cowboys will be in the thick of things. They just might not have the goods to win the division this season.

CSM PHOTOS
DeMARCUS WARE

OFFENSE

At times, this group was explosive (seven games with 27 or more points), but it too often suffered through rough patches. Injuries played a role, as did youth and change on the O-line. Tony Romo was, at times, exceptional running the team's triple-digit passing system, but nearly all the production was made by four pass catchers, one of whom (WR Laurent Robinson) departed in free agency. If RB DeMarco Murray can develop further and stay healthy, and if the line can jell, the offense could eliminate some of those cold snaps and be more consistent.

QUARTERBACKS

Tony Romo had by some measures his finest season. It got off to a rough start with two late turnovers in the Week One loss to the Jets and more second-half gaffes in the Week Four loss to the Lions. But in the final 12 games he had only seven turnovers to go along with 24 TD passes. Romo is a fearless gunner who loves to go for the kill shot against aggressive defenses. He can thread the ball on a dime, has been less prone to bad mechanics and he throws well on the move. For all of his flaws, such as making that horribly untimely turnover, Romo is also one of the NFL's most dangerous passers who remains in his prime years. Kyle Orton comes in as a highly paid backup with 69 career starts (35-34 record) on three other teams. He is accurate on short and medium throws and can pick apart zones, but he's

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

OG Mackenzy Bernadeau, CB Brandon Carr, ILB Dan Connor, OG Nate Livings, QB Kyle Orton, SS Brodney Pool, FB Lawrence Vickers.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

TE Martellus Bennett, S Abram Elam, ILB Bradie James, OG Kyle Kosier, CB Terence Newman, WR Laurent Robinson.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Tony Romo

DEFENSIVE MVP
OLB DeMarcus Ware

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
LB Bruce Carter

POSITION BATTLE
C: Phil Costa vs. Kevin Kowalski vs. Bill Nagy

T. ROMO

D. WARE

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B+	C+	B-	C	B-	A	B	C-

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 5	at NY Giants	8:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Seattle	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 23	Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 1	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	BYE	
Oct. 14	at Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	NY Giants	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Atlanta	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Philadelphia	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 18	Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	Washington	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 2	Philadelphia	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Pittsburgh	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 23	New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Washington	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Dallas

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At New York Jets	(+6.5)	24-27
Sept. 18	At San Francisco	(-3)	27-24*
Sept. 26	Washington	(-3.5)	18-16
Oct. 2	Detroit	(-2.5)	30-34
Oct. 9	BYE		
Oct. 16	At New England	(+6.5)	16-20
Oct. 23	St. Louis	(-14)	34-7
Oct. 30	At Philadelphia	(+3)	7-34
Nov. 6	Seattle	(-10.5)	23-13
Nov. 13	Buffalo	(-4.5)	44-7
Nov. 20	At Washington	(-7)	27-24*
Nov. 24	Miami	(-7)	20-19
Dec. 4	At Arizona	(-4.5)	13-19*
Dec. 11	New York Giants	(-4.5)	34-37
Dec. 17	At Tampa Bay	(-7.5)	31-15
Dec. 24	Philadelphia	(+2.5)	7-20
Jan. 1	At New York Giants	(+3)	14-31

* Overtime

fairly stiff and flat-footed in the pocket. Stephen McGee might get a push from developmental project Rudy Carpenter in training camp.

RUNNING BACKS

Some have said that DeMarco Murray is the Cowboys' first bell-cow back since Emmitt Smith, and Murray's flashes of brilliance (including games of 253, 139 and 135 rushing yards) would appear to back up those claims. But he faded down the stretch (3.5 yards per carry, long run of 18 yards in his final four games) and ended the season on injured reserve with a fractured ankle. He previously fought through a nagging hamstring injury and must shed the reputation that has followed him since high school that he is injury-prone. When healthy, Murray runs with purpose, can shift gears easily and appears to have potential to grow as a receiver. Felix Jones remains the second back and has flashed big-play ability, but his inability to stay healthy is a growing concern. He enters a pivotal season. The team appears to like Phillip Tanner as a third back. The Dallas native is a small-school wonder with a big heart. Lawrence Vickers and Shaun Chapas will battle at fullback, although it's a limited role. The Cowboys use a lot of one-back sets with three and four receivers (or two tight ends), so fullback is a specialty blocking position in short yardage.

RECEIVERS

Don't overlook the loss of Laurent Robinson, who was a godsend after joining the team in Week Two. His 11 TDs will be hard to replace, even on a team with WRs Dez Bryant and Miles Austin and TE Jason Witten. Bryant had career bests in catches (63), yards (928) and touchdowns (nine) but has only one 100-yard contest in 27 career games. He has passion, and the coaches (namely WR coach Jimmy Robinson) have helped him mature as a man and a player. But Bryant also suffers from lapses and can let his emotions get the best of him. Austin battled a nagging hamstring injury all season but scratched his way to seven TDs in 10 games. He might never match his brilliant 2009 output again, but Austin is a fluid route runner who has good polish, strong hands and has learned to get off press coverage. Witten had a good but not great season and his premier days might be behind him. He still has very good hands and is a good safety net for Tony Romo. However, Witten lacks explosion as a route runner, isn't terribly quick and gets tackled too easily on the first attempt. He still can clear lanes as a blocker and is a respected leader. Kevin Ogletree and Dwayne Harris are the next receivers on the totem pole, with rookie Danny Coale in the mix. Harris has potential as a returner, but he might be relegated to slot duty (typically Austin's home) on offense. Ogletree has yet to break out, but Coale has the hands and speed to earn a role. John Phillips is a solid blocking tight end and can be an occasional red-zone target. Sixth-round TE James Hanna is an explosive athlete who could surprise in time.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The results across the board were not shocking considering the youth and changes the team featured. The group allowed 39 sacks and didn't always open up big lanes against good defensive fronts. But there are bright spots, and the unit was reinforced with a pair of guards who could start. Nate Livings and Mackenzy Bernadeau signed in free agency and could man the OLG and ORG spots, respectively. Livings is a blue-collar blocker in the mold of Kyle Kosier (one of the men he will replace). Bernadeau has upside as a force in the run game, but he remains a bit of a project for new OL coach Bill Callahan. The best player in the group is Tyron Smith, who flourished as a 20-year-old rookie at right tackle. His responsibilities will increase in Year Two, blocking Tony Romo's blind side, at left tackle. Smith has terrific feet, can slide and punch well and appears to have All-Pro potential. Doug Free, who had a bad season at left tackle, kicks over to the right side. Free struggled with elite pass rushers and had the most sacks allowed (9½) and penalties (10) on the line. He must show he is worth the $32 million extension he received before the 2011 season. Right now, center looms as a battle between Phil Costa, Kevin Kowalski and Bill Nagy. Costa lacks size and power and appears replaceable. Kowalski impressed in his brief duty at the position down the stretch. Nagy won a spot with his grit but might be most valuable as a swing interior reserve. David Arkin is also in the mix as a backup/developmental guard. Jermey Parnell is the third tackle, which highlights the lack of depth outside.

DEFENSE

Rob Ryan never could install his complex system completely in the lockout-shortened offseason, and it led to communication breakdowns, especially in the secondary. Players routinely were out of position and struggled to master assignments. Another year under Ryan should lead to improvement, simply from an understanding standpoint. That should help, and the Cowboys have upgraded the secondary, allowing Ryan to play more press coverage and blitz. They still have a game changer in OLB DeMarcus Ware, so expect more big plays as Ryan fits his new pieces together.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jay Ratliff made the Pro Bowl at a lean position based on reputation. He simply hasn't

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@N.Y.J.**	**@S.F.**	**WASH.**	**DET.**	**@N.E.**	**ST.L.**	**@PHIL.**	**SEA.**	**BUFF.**	**@WASH.**	**MIA.**	**@ARIZ.**	**N.Y.G.**	**@T.B.**	**PHIL.**	**@N.Y.G.**	
Score	24-27	27-24	18-16	30-34	16-20	34-7	7-34	23-13	44-7	27-24	20-19	13-19	34-37	31-15	7-20	14-31	
Total net yards	390	472	375	434	377	445	267	442	433	353	303	336	444	399	238	300	6008
Rushing yards	64	45	125	113	77	294	85	163	163	89	85	75	139	160	81	49	1807
Passing yards	326	427	250	321	300	151	182	279	270	264	218	261	305	239	157	251	4201
Rushing plays	26	22	26	27	24	34	10	29	35	32	23	20	24	37	23	16	408
Sacks allowed	4	1	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	4	1	5	3	2	3	6	39
Had intercepted	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	12
Fumbles lost	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	9
Yards penalized	40	83	55	33	77	30	20	82	74	48	69	49	51	15	47	43	816
Punts	6	4	3	3	4	3	5	4	1	7	5	5	3	3	9	6	71

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	26:07	29:18	28:24	23:21	27:11	26:04	42:09	30:33	25:28	28:50	31:28	28:03	34:19	22:01	27:37	34:33	29:05
Total net yards	360	206	298	303	371	265	495	381	271	339	352	327	510	190	386	437	5491
Rushing yards	45	74	65	63	101	70	239	162	135	60	89	103	110	58	105	106	1585
Passing yards	315	132	233	240	270	195	256	219	136	279	263	224	400	132	281	331	3906
Rushing plays	16	24	22	17	25	21	38	30	17	24	25	25	31	13	26	31	385
Sacks allowed	4	6	3	0	3	1	4	1	1	3	4	5	0	3	2	2	42
Had intercepted	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	15
Fumbles lost	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	10
Yards penalized	0	25	35	75	35	16	33	88	12	59	55	41	55	46	47	28	650
Punts	6	6	5	6	2	5	2	3	3	5	4	7	4	4	6	4	72

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Choice	3-4-0	5-5-0	7-5-0	6-39-0	5-14-0	2-8-0											28-75-0
F. Jones	17-44-1	9-25-0	14-115-0	16-57-0	7-12-0					5-18-0		6-36-0	16-106-0	22-108-0	4-24-0	11-30-0	127-575-1
Morris														12-53-0	13-29-0	3-16-0	28-98-0
Murray	2-0-0	6-21-0	2-6-0	4-12-0	11-34-0	25-253-1	8-74-0	22-139-0	20-135-1	25-73-0	22-87-0	12-38-0	5-25-0				164-897-2
Romo	3-9-0		2-(-1)-0		1-17-0		1-9-0	3-13-0	2-0-0	2-(-2)-0	1-(-2)-0	2-1-0		3-(-1)-1		2-3-0	22-46-1
Tanner						6-34-1	1-2-0	4-11-0	11-29-0								22-76-1

PASSING **

McGee															24-38-0 182-1		24-38-0 182-1
Romo	23-36-1 342-2	20-33-0 345-2	22-36-1 255-0	34-47-3 331-3	27-41-1 317-1	14-24-0 166-2	18-35-1 203-1	19-31-0 279-2	23-26-0 270-3	23-37-0 292-3	22-34-2 226-2	28-42-0 299-1	21-31-0 321-4	23-30-0 249-3	0-2-0 0-0	29-37-1 289-2	346-522-10 4184-31

RECEIVING

Austin	5-90-1	9-143-3			7-74-0	2-16-0	3-27-0	2-53-0					4-63-1	5-53-1	4-40-1	2-20-0	43-579-7
Bennett			1-6-0	2-22-0	2-13-0				1-8-0	3-31-0	1-8-0			3-23-0	3-28-0	1-5-0	17-144-0
Bryant	3-71-1		4-63-0	3-37-2	4-78-0	5-90-1	3-28-0	4-76-0	6-74-1	3-68-1	3-35-0	8-86-1	1-50-1	4-40-1	6-62-0	6-70-0	63-928-9
Holley		3-96-0							1-25-0	1-17-0		2-31-0					7-169-0
F. Jones	3-22-0	1-5-0	3-40-0	5-19-0	2-19-0					1-4-0	1-4-0	1-7-0	6-31-0	3-23-0		7-47-0	33-221-0
Murray	1-13-0	1-4-0		1-(-1)-0	1-7-0		1-(-2)-0	4-47-0	6-36-0	6-32-0	4-41-0		1-6-0				26-183-0
Ogletree	2-12-0	2-50-0	3-19-0	1-13-0	1-12-0				1-17-0	1-12-0		3-25-0		1-4-0			15-164-0
Phillips	2-19-0	1-8-0		3-8-0	1-7-0					1-9-0	2-16-0	4-22-0	1-12-1				15-101-1
Robinson			3-49-0	7-116-0	2-43-0	2-25-0	5-103-1	5-32-1	3-73-2	4-34-1	7-79-2	4-72-0	4-137-1	3-29-1	1-5-0	4-61-2	54-858-11
Witten	6-110-0	7-102-0	6-60-0	8-94-1	4-48-1	5-35-1	4-28-0	4-71-1	5-37-0	3-85-1	4-43-0	5-47-0	3-12-0	4-77-0	4-24-0	7-69-0	79-942-5

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Morris Claiborne	CB	LSU	6
3	Tyrone Crawford	DE	Boise State	81
4	Kyle Wilber	OLB	Wake Forest	113
4	Matt Johnson	SS	Eastern Washington	135
5	Danny Coale	WR	Virginia Tech	152
6	James Hanna	TE	Oklahoma	186
7	Caleb McSurdy	ILB	Montana	222

M. CLAIBORNE

been the inside penetrator he was a few seasons ago, and although Ratliff hasn't been bad, his performance has fallen off. He might be better suited playing more at one of the DE spots, where his lack of bulk can be covered up a bit better. Sean Lissemore and Josh Brent played well as lightly used reserves and could be due for expanded roles. Clifton Geathers also has some upside worth investigating as a five-technique. DLE Kenyon Coleman started last season but is 33 and hasn't shown the same leverage or power he once had. DRE Jason Hatcher held his own against the run better than scouts thought he would, but he hasn't shown enough closing juice as a pass rusher. He's serviceable but by no means dominant. There is depth with Marcus Spears, who took less money to return, and third-rounder Tyrone Crawford, who is a bit raw but could be groomed to be the starting left end in time.

LINEBACKERS

DeMarcus Ware notched a career-high 19½ sacks and was his typically destructive self most of the time. He battled through a stinger that took a little bite out of his game later in the season, but he finished strong with 4½ sacks in the final three games and should benefit now from better coverage in the secondary. Ware can bend the edge, collapse a pocket and use his arsenal of moves to wear down left tackles for 60 minutes. The problem: He hasn't always had a lot of pass-rush help, inviting extra blocking attention. Anthony Spencer has the reputation of being a very good edge-setting run defender, but he was not as strong in that department as he had been previously. And his pass-rush abilities, which appeared to be rising in 2009, haven't developed as expected. His eventual replacement could be fourth-rounder Kyle Wilber, who has rush abilty. The team has a star in the making in Sean Lee, who led the team in tackles and tackles for loss and tied for the team lead in interceptions. He's outstanding dropping into coverage and has shown a nose for the ball and more pop at the point of attack than he is given credit for. Lee's instincts are top-notch, and he's a locker-room leader in bloom. He's reunited with former Penn State teammate Dan Connor, a good run defender who played predominantly in "40" fronts in Carolina. Can he stack and shed blocks of massive guards consistently? Connor is solid but not spectacular in any way. He might be pushed by second-year LB Bruce Carter, who has terrific athleticism but must stay healthy and was relegated primarily to special teams in Year One.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The team made three net gains by adding CBs Brandon Carr and Morris Claiborne and SS Brodney Pool (and chose to not bring back Terence Newman and Abram Elam). Carr is a tough, scrappy, physical press-man corner who fits the Rob Ryan defense perfectly. Carr has started every game in his four-year NFL career with the Chiefs and should be a good addition at a need spot. Claiborne has excellent cover skills and could be special, but he needs to use his long arms to his advantage better in the press-man scheme. Mike Jenkins might be traded, but the team could opt for depth and keep him. He was in and out of the lineup with injuries in his third season — he had surgery on his right shoulder in January — and has displayed wavering confidence. Orlando Scandrick got picked on a lot in the slot, but he's a competitive player willing to take on tough assignments. He just wasn't worth the contract the Cowboys gave him. Pool

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	88 BRYANT	85 Ogletree	15 Holmes	
OLT	77 T. SMITH			
OLG	71 LIVINGS	61 Nagy		
C	67 COSTA	60 Kowalski	61 Nagy	
ORG	73 BERNADEAU	62 Arkin		
ORT	68 FREE	78 Parnell		
TE	82 WITTEN	89 Phillips	84 Hanna*	
WR	19 AUSTIN	17 Harris	81 Coale*	
QB	9 ROMO	18 Orton	7 McGee	
RB	29 MURRAY	28 F. Jones	34 Tanner	
FB	47 VICKERS	45 Chapas		
DEFENSE				
DLE	99 COLEMAN	95 Lissemore	70 Crawford*	
NT	90 RATLIFF	92 Brent		
DRE	97 HATCHER	96 Spears	98 Geathers	
LOLB	93 SPENCER	51 Wilber*		
LILB	52 CONNOR	54 Carter	58 Lemon	
RILB	50 LEE	56 McSurdy*		
ROLB	94 WARE	57 V. Butler	55 Albright	
LCB	39 CARR	32 Scandrick	27 Wilson	
RCB	24 CLAIBORNE*	21 Jenkins		
SS	23 POOL	42 Church	37 Johnson*	
FS	43 SENSABAUGH	40 McCray		
SPECIALISTS				
P	6 C. JONES			
PK	5 BAILEY			
H	18 ORTON	6 Jones		
PR	88 BRYANT	17 Harris		
KR	24 CLAIBORNE*	17 Harris	28 F. Jones	
LS	91 LaDOUCEUR			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Brian Baker, defensive line; Joe Baker, asst. secondary; Ben Bloom, defensive quality control/linebackers; Chris Boniol, asst. special teams/kickers; Bill Callahan, offensive coordinator/offensive line; Joe DeCamillis, special-teams coordinator; Matt Eberflus, linebackers; John Garrett, tight ends/passing-game coordinator; Jerome Henderson, secondary; Keith O'Quinn, quality control, offense/wide receivers; Skip Peete, running backs; Wes Phillips, asst. offensive line; Jimmy Robinson, asst. head coach/wide receivers; Rob Ryan, defensive coordinator; Walt Williams, asst. strength and conditioning; Wade Wilson, quarterbacks; Mike Woicik, strength and conditioning.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
75	Adams, Jeff	OT	6-6	304	R	Columbia	
64	Adcock, Levy	OT	6-5	324	R	Oklahoma State	
55	Albright, Alex	LB	6-5	256	2	Boston College	16/0
62	Arkin, David	OG	6-5	310	2	Missouri State	0/0
59	Atkins, Baraka	DE	6-4	271	5	Miami (Fla.)	0/0
19	Austin, Miles	WR	6-2	215	7	Monmouth (N.J.)	10/10
5	Bailey, Dan	PK	6-0	188	2	Oklahoma State	16/0
14	Beasley, Cole	WR	5-8	174	R	SMU	
16	Benford, Tim	WR	5-11	196	R	Tennessee Tech	
73	Bernadeau, Mackenzy	OG	6-4	308	6	Bentley (Mass.)	15/1
92	Brent, Josh	DT	6-2	320	3	Illinois	11/0
49	Bryan, George	TE	6-5	263	R	North Carolina State	
88	Bryant, Dez	WR	6-2	218	3	Oklahoma State	15/13
31	Butler, Mario	CB	6-0	191	2	Georgia Tech	0/0
57	Butler, Victor	LB	6-2	249	4	Oregon State	16/0
72	Callaway, Robert	DT	6-4	333	1	Saginaw Valley State	0/0
11	Carpenter, Rudy	QB	6-2	212	3	Arizona State	1/0
39	Carr, Brandon	CB	6-0	207	5	Grand Valley State	16/16
54	Carter, Bruce	LB	6-3	246	2	North Carolina	10/0
45	Chapas, Shaun	FB	6-2	249	1	Georgia	3/0
42	Church, Barry	S	6-2	220	3	Toledo	13/1
24	Claiborne, Morris	CB	5-11	182	R	LSU	
81	Coale, Danny	WR	6-0	196	R	Virginia Tech	
99	Coleman, Kenyon	DE	6-5	306	11	UCLA	16/15
52	Connor, Dan	LB	6-2	231	5	Penn State	15/11
67	Costa, Phil	C	6-3	314	3	Maryland	16/16
70	Crawford, Tyrone	DE	6-4	282	R	Boise State	
74	Dever, Taylor	OT	6-5	298	R	Notre Dame	
25	Dunbar, Lance	RB	5-8	191	R	North Texas	
68	Free, Doug	OT	6-6	323	6	Northern Illinois	16/16
98	Geathers, Clifton	DE	6-7	320	2	South Carolina	5/0
48	Greenhouse, Isaiah	FB	6-2	239	1	Northwestern St. (La.)	0/0
63	Gunn, Harland	OG	6-2	324	R	Miami (Fla.)	
13	Hakim, Saalim	WR	5-11	183	R	Tarleton State (Texas)	
48	Hamilton, Adrian	LB	6-2	246	R	Prairie View A&M	
84	Hanna, James	TE	6-4	249	R	Oklahoma	
17	Harris, Dwayne	WR	5-10	208	2	East Carolina	7/0
97	Hatcher, Jason	DT	6-6	302	7	Grambling State	13/10
15	Holmes, Andre	WR	6-5	208	1	Hillsdale (Mich.)	0/0
44	Hughlett, Charley	LS	6-4	242	R	UCF	
21	Jenkins, Mike	CB	5-10	202	5	South Florida	12/12
37	Johnson, Matt	S	6-1	210	R	Eastern Washington	
6	Jones, Chris	P	6-0	200	2	Carson Newman	2/0
28	Jones, Felix	RB	5-10	217	5	Arkansas	12/8
87	Kemp, Donavon	WR	6-1	191	R	UTEP	
60	Kowalski, Kevin	C	6-4	301	2	Toledo	11/0
91	Ladouceur, L.P.	LS	6-5	260	8	California	16/0
65	Leary, Ronald	OG	6-3	324	R	Memphis	
50	Lee, Sean	LB	6-2	245	3	Penn State	15/15
58	Lemon, Orie	LB	6-1	246	1	Oklahoma State	0/0
95	Lissemore, Sean	DE	6-4	306	3	William & Mary	16/0
71	Livings, Nate	OG	6-5	332	7	LSU	16/16
30	Madison, Isaac	CB	5-10	173	R	Arkansas	
40	McCray, Danny	S	6-1	222	3	LSU	14/0
7	McGee, Stephen	QB	6-3	225	4	Texas A&M	1/0
56	McSurdy, Caleb	LB	6-1	246	R	Montana	
29	Murray, DeMarco	RB	6-0	227	2	Oklahoma	13/7
61	Nagy, Bill	OG-C	6-3	303	2	Wisconsin	4/4
76	Novikoff, Tyrone	OT	6-6	321	R	Idaho	
85	Ogletree, Kevin	WR	6-1	190	4	Virginia	14/1
18	Orton, Kyle	QB	6-4	225	8	Purdue	9/8
78	Parnell, Jermey	OT	6-6	305	3	Mississippi	3/0
89	Phillips, John	TE	6-5	261	4	Virginia	16/7
23	Pool, Brodney	S	6-2	210	8	Oklahoma	14/6
86	Radway, Raymond	WR	6-3	198	1	Abilene Christian	0/0
90	Ratliff, Jay	DT	6-4	287	8	Auburn	16/16
9	Romo, Tony	QB	6-2	228	10	Eastern Illinois	16/16
32	Scandrick, Orlando	CB	5-10	191	5	Boise State	13/7
35	Scott, Darrell	RB	6-0	226	R	South Florida	
43	Sensabaugh, Gerald	S	6-1	208	8	North Carolina	16/16
36	Silva, Mana	S	6-0	220	1	Hawaii	2/0
26	Smith, Lionel	CB	5-11	180	R	Texas A&M	
77	Smith, Tyron	OT	6-5	311	2	USC	16/16
96	Spears, Marcus	DE	6-4	315	8	LSU	16/5
93	Spencer, Anthony	LB	6-3	257	6	Purdue	16/15
80	Szczerba, Andrew	TE	6-6	260	R	Penn State	
34	Tanner, Phillip	RB	6-0	218	2	Middle Tennessee	9/0
33	Taplin-Ross, Justin	CB	6-3	212	1	Utah	0/0
47	Vickers, Lawrence	FB	6-0	250	7	Colorado	14/1
94	Ware, DeMarcus	LB	6-4	260	8	Troy	16/16
46	Whiteside, Aston	LB	6-2	257	R	Abilene Christian	
38	Whitley, Eddie	S	6-0	187	R	Virginia Tech	
51	Wilber, Kyle	LB	6-4	239	R	Wake Forest	
20	Williams, Teddy	CB	6-1	205	1	Texas-San Antonio	0/0
27	Wilson, C.J.	CB	6-1	195	5	Baylor	0/0
82	Witten, Jason	TE	6-5	265	9	Tennessee	16/16
41	Woolfolk, Troy	CB	5-11	196	R	Michigan	

is regarded as a pretty good ballhawk. Having played with the Jets, Poole is familiar with the terminology of the Ryan family defense, at least in part. Pool just isn't the hitter you typically see at strong safety. Gerald Sensabaugh doesn't get his hands on enough balls, although he's a good enough tackler in space. He's the first option at the other safety spot. Barry Church and Danny McCray are best on special teams and in spot defensive duty, but fourth-rounder Matt Johnson could push one of them out of a job.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The coverage teams were solid, and PK Dan Bailey had a great first season, but otherwise this group underperformed. Bailey might be known best for his last-second miss against the Cardinals (after Jason Garrett's ill-fated timeout) but was otherwise spectacular, hitting 26 consecutive FG attempts in one stretch. He has confidence and respectable leg strength. The team has moved on from P Mat McBriar, and the top option right now is Chris Jones, who had a 40.5-yard net and four punts inside the 20 on 10 attempts. Dez Bryant couldn't create much magic on punt returns but has shown home-run ability in the past. The KR production wasn't any better; Dwayne Harris will get another crack there, but he needs competition, possibly from Morris Claiborne. Would the Cowboys use two starters, Bryant and Claiborne, as their primary returners? It's risky.

SUMMARY

Critics came out in full force against Jason Garrett by the end of his first full season as head coach, but this was neither a complete team nor the bounty of talent that people assumed it was. Some of the holes and needs were patched this offseason, and a Tony Romo-led offense and DeMarcus Ware-led defense gives the Cowboys a chance to make a run at the playoffs. But the schedule (seven games against 2011 playoff teams) is daunting, and the rest of the division appears improved or equally as strong as before. What's clear is that Romo and Ware can't do the heavy lifting themselves — they need more help from the other pieces on this good but perhaps not great roster.

4 WASHINGTON Redskins

2012 PREDICTION: 7-9 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC EAST)*
2011 RECORD: 5-11 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC EAST)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. SHANAHAN

HEAD COACH: Mike Shanahan
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kyle Shanahan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim Haslett
OWNER: Daniel Snyder
STADIUM: FedEx Field | **CAPACITY:** 91,704
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.redskins.com

In golf parlance, Saturday — the third day of a tournament — is "moving day." It's when the wannabe-contenders must take control of the tournament if they want to make a run at the top of the leaderboard. Entering his third season running the Redskins, Mike Shanahan is on the cusp of his own "move" opportunity.

The chance to flip the NFC East is there. Armed with a gifted young QB and an underrated defense, Shanahan could be building a monster.

Fall short this time, and who knows? Owner Daniel Snyder, frustrated by continued losing and noted for his past impetuousness, could go in a different direction.

The Redskins clearly are at a flashpoint in Shanahan's reign, and yet they cannot be taken lightly. Baylor QB Robert Griffin III gives the team hope at a position that has been a sore spot much of the past 20 years, even if growing pains are all but certain along the way.

The pieces around Griffin also are a concern. Do the Redskins have the firepower to compete in the East? Upgrades at receiver should help, but it remains to be seen if Griffin will be forced to do a lot of the heavy lifting himself.

The defense should help. It took big strides in the second season under coordinator Jim Haslett, who found the right pieces for his attacking 3-4 scheme. Assuming a questionable situation at safety isn't an Achilles' heel, this group could be even better in 2012.

Don't sleep on the Redskins. They have been divisional doormats recently but might be ready to surprise — and move on up.

JEFF FISHBEIN

BRIAN ORAKPO

OFFENSE

Mike and Kyle Shanahan will run the same moving-pocket pass game they have, tailoring it to Robert Griffin's talents. He will have humbling moments as he learns the scheme and adapts to the personnel and the speed of NFL defenses, but Griffin's vertical arm and scrambling ability will add new dimensions. The zone run game appears to have a committee approach, and if the blocking improves we could be looking at a unit that mimics the explosive Denver outfits of yore.

QUARTERBACKS

Robert Griffin III comes into the NFL with boundless hype and unquestionable upside as a runner and thrower, capping off a brilliant career at Baylor with explosive plays in his Heisman-winning junior season. He completed 72 percent of his passes but also gained a scalding 10.6 yards per attempt, showing excellent deep touch and accuracy. Working primarily out of the shotgun, Griffin will need time adjusting to under center, but Carolina's Cam Newton — to some, a less-polished product than Griffin coming out — proved it can be done quickly. Griffin is smart, competitive and hardworking, but his instincts, mechanics and pocket feel all need cultivating. Rex Grossman, who had a 6-10 record as a starter in his first two seasons with the team and negated his positive plays with untimely turnovers, will be the backup. He can step up in a pinch and has a chip on

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

WR Pierre Garcon, CB Cedric Griffin, OT James Lee, FS Brandon Meriweather, WR Josh Morgan.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

FS Oshiomogho Atogwe, SS LaRon Landry, OG Sean Locklear, TE Mike Sellers, WR Donté Stallworth.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Robert Griffin III

DEFENSIVE MVP
LB London Fletcher

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
DE Jarvis Jenkins

POSITION BATTLE
Safety: Open competition

R. GRIFFIN III

L. FLETCHER

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C+	C-	C+	C+	B+	B+	C	C+

his shoulder. Fourth-rounder Krik Cousins is a lock for the No. 3 job and is a smart, tough dependable worker who comes up short on arm strength and scrambling ability.

RUNNING BACKS

Roy Helu had a strange rookie season, carrying the ball 51 times through 10 games before suddenly being thrust into a workhorse role the following four contests, with 96-387-2 rushing in that span. He was one of the few Redskins who could make defenders miss and generate yards after contact, but he also didn't show a home-run gear (only four of his 151 carries went for 20 yards or more), never was completely healthy and might have to have a complement to be fully effective. Still, expect more in Year Two. Evan Royster vaulted from the practice squad to contribute late. He has less breakaway burst than Helu but is a good, patient runner inside and a solid fit for the zone series. Royster might not be special, but he logs medium-length runs and could be the four-minute back. Tim Hightower, coming off a torn ACL, was a free agent at presstime but could return to round out the group. Sixth-rounder Alfred Morris could get time at tailback or fullback but must curb his fumbling. FB Darrel Young is a solid, workmanlike performer.

RECEIVERS

Pierre Garcon is being paid like a No. 1 receiver. It's now time for him to play at that level. Coming over from the Colts, Garcon's production without Peyton Manning (70-947-6 receiving) was impressive. But Garcon did too much work last season in garbage time (39 percent of his yards came in fourth quarters, many of which were blowout losses) and hasn't shown enough consistency. Garcon is slippery quick, able to run past man coverage and can get loose in the open field. But he has inconsistent hands, suffers lapses and disappears for stretches. He nonetheless will headline a unit that also added ex-49er Josh Morgan, who is coming off an injury-plagued season. He has surprising quicks and is solidly built, able to get off press coverage. But he hasn't been a game changer in his first four seasons. The Redskins' vertical system could allow that to change. Leonard Hankerson could break out and might be the coaches' favorite to start opposite Garcon. He improved in practices throughout his rookie campaign before suffering a season-ending labral tear in his right hip after only one big game. Santana Moss is in danger of being cut (even with last year's leading wideout, Jabar Gaffney, already hitting the street) but still could make an impact. Moss no longer is a dynamic big-play threat but has the quickness to be effective on short passes. TE Fred Davis will be busy again after being named the franchise player. He is a below-average blocker but can find the cracks in zones as a receiver and was the one consistent big-play threat last season. His second positive drug test, however, leaves him in danger of a yearlong suspension if he flunks another. Chris Cooley had a lost season, beset by knee and finger injuries, and is no guarantee to make the roster with a high salary. The club has Logan Paulsen, Richard Quinn and converted WR Niles Paul as insurance at tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Trent Williams is the left tackle, and Kory Lichtensteiger (if healthy; he's coming off a torn ACL) is the likely left guard. Beyond that is uncertainty. Williams played at his highest level before a four-game suspension ended his season. As with Fred Davis, another positive drug test wipes out a whole year for Williams. He has the feet, reach and strength to be dominant. Will he put it all together? Mike Shanahan said Lichtensteiger was the team's best run blocker. C Will Montgomery knows the calls and makes adjustments well, but he's not powerful and had some trouble with shotgun snaps — which Robert Griffin is most comfortable with at this point. ORG Chris Chester was ordinary. He lacks bulk but moves pretty well. The biggest concern is at right tackle, where Jammal Brown continues to be hampered by a surgically repaired left hip. He appears to be fading at 31, as Brown failed to plow cutback lanes even before the injury flared up again. Maurice Hurt flashed potential as a developmental guard, and Willie Smith impressed in replacing Williams. Smith could end up taking Brown's starting spot. Ex-Buccaneer James Lee is the only other veteran backup of note, but there is flexibility with Lichtensteiger able to play center if needed. There is more depth with three draft picks — OG-C Josh LeRibeus, OG Adam Gettis and OT Tom Compton — who are good fits as zone blockers but might need time to develop.

DEFENSE

Jim Haslett did a great job improving this unit in Year Two of the switch to his 3-4 system. Haslett will blitz, but he also plays a reactive system that relies on alternating pressure from OLBs Brian Orakpo and Ryan Kerrigan. The physical brand of press coverage can stunt receivers off the snap, but the safety situation is concerning. There might be limitations in terms of flexibility and personnel packages. But overall, this is a unit on the rise with most of the starters under 30 years old with room to improve.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group improved dramatically and stands to be

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at St. Louis	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 23	Cincinnati	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Tampa Bay	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 7	Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	Minnesota	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 21	at NY Giants	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Pittsburgh	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	BYE	
Nov. 18	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Dallas	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 3	NY Giants	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Baltimore	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Cleveland	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Dallas	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Washington

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	New York Giants	(+1.5)	28-14
Sept. 18	Arizona	(-4.5)	22-21
Sept. 26	At Dallas	(+3.5)	16-18
Oct. 2	At St. Louis	(-3)	17-10
Oct. 9	BYE		
Oct. 16	Philadelphia	(+3)	13-20
Oct. 23	At Carolina	(+2.5)	20-33
Oct. 30	At Buffalo	(+4)	0-23
Nov. 6	San Francisco	(+5)	11-19
Nov. 13	At Miami	(+4)	9-20
Nov. 20	Dallas	(+7)	24-27*
Nov. 27	At Seattle	(+3)	23-17
Dec. 4	New York Jets	(+3)	19-34
Dec. 11	New England	(+7.5)	27-34
Dec. 18	At New York Giants	(+6)	23-10
Dec. 24	Minnesota	(-6)	26-33
Jan. 1	At Philadelphia	(+7)	10-34

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**N.Y.G.**	**ARIZ.**	**@DALL.**	**@ST.L.**	**PHIL.**	**@CAR.**	**@BUFF.**	**S.F.**	**@MIA.**	**DALL.**	**@SEA.**	**N.Y.J.**	**N.E.**	**@N.Y.G.**	**MINN.**	**@PHIL.**	
Score	28-14	22-21	16-18	17-10	13-20	20-33	0-23	11-19	9-20	24-27	23-17	19-34	27-34	23-10	26-33	10-34	
Total net yards	332	455	298	339	287	353	178	303	246	339	416	304	463	300	397	377	5387
Rushing yards	74	172	65	196	42	92	26	52	61	60	110	100	170	123	141	130	1614
Passing yards	258	283	233	143	245	261	152	251	185	279	306	204	293	177	256	247	3773
Rushing plays	26	35	22	40	14	23	11	14	16	24	29	23	34	40	24	25	400
Sacks allowed	4	1	3	0	2	3	10	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	3	1	41
Had intercepted	0	2	1	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	24
Fumbles lost	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	11
Yards penalized	25	15	35	96	75	26	59	35	51	59	115	50	73	48	64	71	897
Punts	6	3	5	7	4	1	6	5	2	5	4	6	3	2	2	5	66
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	27:24	21:30	31:36	24:50	38:08	35:30	34:51	32:19	33:33	31:10	26:40	32:12	23:51	25:00	29:34	29:19	29:54
Total net yards	315	324	375	172	422	407	390	326	303	353	250	266	431	324	389	390	5437
Rushing yards	75	93	125	45	192	175	138	138	103	89	124	101	79	91	241	75	1884
Passing yards	240	231	250	127	230	232	252	188	200	264	126	165	352	233	148	315	3553
Rushing plays	20	15	26	17	38	37	33	32	33	32	30	30	20	18	38	19	438
Sacks allowed	4	3	1	7	2	4	2	2	2	4	2	0	1	3	2	2	41
Had intercepted	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	13
Fumbles lost	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	8
Yards penalized	63	97	55	65	60	105	35	55	55	48	91	40	47	75	40	75	1006
Punts	6	6	3	8	3	3	3	5	1	7	6	5	3	4	3	4	70

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Beck					2-14-1	3-10-1	2-10-0	3-9-0									10-43-2
Grossman		4-(-5)-0	1-6-0	5-2-0						3-10-1	5-(-1)-0		1-0-0	1-(-1)-0			20-11-1
Helu	1-2-0	10-74-0	5-15-0	8-35-0	2-6-0	1-(-1)-0		10-41-0	6-41-0	8-35-0	23-108-1	23-100-1	27-126-0	23-53-0		4-5-0	151-640-2
Hightower	25-72-1	20-96-0	14-41-0	8-24-0		17-88-0											84-321-1
Royster											1-3-0		6-44-0	10-36-0	19-132-0	20-113-0	56-328-0
Torain				19-135-1	10-22-0	2-(-5)-0	8-14-0	1-2-0	10-20-0	5-4-0					4-8-0		59-200-1

PASSING **

Beck					8-15-0 117-0	22-37-1 279-1	20-33-2 208-0	30-47-1 254-1									80-132-4 858-2
Grossman	21-34-0 305-2	25-43-2 291-2	22-37-1 250-1	15-29-2 143-1	9-22-4 143-0				21-32-2 215-0	25-38-1 292-2	26-35-2 314-2	19-46-1 221-0	19-32-1 252-2	15-24-2 185-1	26-41-1 284-2	22-45-1 256-1	265-458-20 3151-16

RECEIVING

Armstrong	2-24-1	2-14-0				1-9-0					1-50-1				1-6-0		7-103-2
Austin					1-32-0	3-26-0	2-22-0	2-14-0							3-39-0	1-4-0	12-137-0
F. Davis	5-105-0	6-86-1	1-23-0	4-34-0	6-95-0	6-80-1	8-94-0	4-42-0	3-28-0	6-52-0	4-58-1	6-99-0					59-796-3
Gaffney	3-54-1	5-62-0	5-60-0	4-62-0	2-55-0	4-68-0	4-40-0	4-40-1	3-37-0	7-115-1	5-72-0		6-92-1	6-85-0	6-77-1	4-28-0	68-947-5
Hankerson							1-23-0	4-34-0	8-106-0								13-163-0
Helu		3-38-0	2-17-0		2-11-0	2-6-0	3-20-0	14-105-0	3-13-0	2-3-0	7-54-0	4-42-0	2-6-0	3-16-0		2-48-1	49-379-1
Moss	6-76-0	5-61-1	5-70-0	5-39-1	2-38-0	2-17-0					4-29-0	5-42-0	3-81-1	2-40-1	4-46-0	3-45-0	46-584-4
Paulsen						2-48-0			1-16-0	2-17-0	2-14-0			1-9-0	1-5-0	2-29-0	11-138-0
Stallworth		2-16-0			3-30-0					4-51-1		1-14-0	4-96-0	2-35-0	5-59-1	1-8-0	22-309-2
Young		1-4-0					1-3-0	1-12-0	1-(-3)-0	1-27-0	2-22-0		1-8-0	1-0-0	2-33-0	4-40-0	15-146-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

even better. The three starters — DLE Adam Carriker, NT Barry Cofield and DRE Stephen Bowen — are back, joined by promising second-year DE Jarvis Jenkins, who tore his ACL last preseason. With nearly a full year of rehab, he should be back to form — and the way he played prior to his injury, Jenkins appeared to be the team's most gifted lineman. Carriker is a good base end who can steer blockers, drive with power and occasionally offer a big play. He's solid but not a big difference maker; Jenkins could take some of his reps. Cofield can disengage from blocks, has good upfield quickness and is a decent run defender who is still adjusting to playing the 3-4 nose. Bowen streamlined his pass rush and provided more pressure than his sack stats show, but he needs to be more physical. Kedric Golston is a strong reserve, capable of filling in at almost any technique. NT Chris Neild did a nice job as a run plugger and had two surprising sacks early. The depth is respectable. This is a very solid group overall.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Robert Griffin III	QB	Baylor	2
3	Josh LeRibeus	OG-C	SMU	71
4	Kirk Cousins	QB	Michigan State	102
4	Keenan Robinson	ILB	Texas	119
5	Adam Gettis	OG	Iowa	141
6	Alfred Morris	RB	Florida Atlantic	173
6	Tom Compton	OT	South Dakota	193
7	Richard Crawford	CB	SMU	213
7	Jordan Bernstine	SS	Iowa	217

R. GRIFFIN III

LINEBACKERS

After a few missed tackles early, ILB London Fletcher raised his play to the level we have come to expect. He will be 37 years old this season and is not as spry as he once was, but Fletcher uses his rare smarts to sniff out plays, sidestep blocking schemes and knife in to make tackles — lots of them. He's the glue for this team on the field and in the facility. The other, younger starters have the potential to make up an excellent unit. Brian Orakpo looked to be on the verge of busting out, but he had a good, not great, season. He doesn't have the widest array of pass-rush moves and has left plays on the field. But Orakpo made strides against the run and has a hot motor. So does Ryan Kerrigan, who made a far quicker transition to stand-up linebacker (from college end) than anyone could have hoped for. He's savvy for such a young player, very durable (playing every defensive snap) and has a nose for the ball (7½ sacks, four forced fumbles, one interception return for TD). Kerrigan should improve as he learns to diversify his pass rush and continue building stamina. ILB Perry Riley is the fastest of the group, and he did a nice job after earning a starting spot. Riley got turned around in coverage against good tight ends but appears to have good feel otherwise. Reserve LBs Lorenzo Alexander, Jonathan Goff, Rob Jackson, Markus White and rookie Keenan Robinson offer good depth. Goff could be the top inside backup, and Robinson could fill the role of coverage linebacker in nickel packages.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Safety is a worry for new DB coach Raheem Morris, with three cast-offs, two backups and a converted corner in the mix. Brandon Meriweather has good physical characteristics but also questionable instincts and poor tackling form. He more often goes for knockout shots than smart plays. A week before the draft, Meriweather was arrested on suspicion of DUI. Tanard Jackson might be the favorite to win a safety job, but like Meriweather, he has off-field concerns. Jackson is the most talented player the 'Skins have there. He was a playmaker for Morris for five years in Tampa Bay and is only 26 years old. Madieu Williams was just OK as a reserve in San Francisco but will get a shot at safety. Cedric Griffin is a tough, physical zone corner who might convert to safety if needed. He hits well and is a fighter, but two bad knees have cost him foot speed. Things are more

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	GARCON	89 Moss	13 Armstrong	
OLT	71 T. WILLIAMS	Lee	Compton*	
OLG	78 LICHTENSTEIGER	79 Hurt	Gettis*	
C	63 MONTGOMERY	LeRibeus*		
ORG	66 CHESTER	58 Cook	LeRibeus*	
ORT	77 BROWN	69 Smith	74 Polumbus	
TE	83 F. DAVIS	47 Cooley	82 Paulsen	
WR	85 HANKERSON	Morgan	13 Armstrong	
QB	10 R. GRIFFIN*	8 Grossman	Cousins*	
RB	29 HELU	35 Royster	Morris*	
FB	36 YOUNG	Morris*		
DEFENSE				
DLE	94 CARRIKER	99 Jenkins	93 Balmer	
NT	96 COFIELD	95 Neild	92 Baker	
DRE	72 BOWEN	64 Golston	76 Scott	
LOLB	91 KERRIGAN	97 Alexander	55 White	
LILB	59 FLETCHER	Goff		
RILB	56 RILEY	K. Robinson*	Kehl	
ROLB	98 ORAKPO	50 R. Jackson		
LCB	23 HALL	22 Barnes	32 Thompson	
RCB	26 J. WILSON	Torrence	Crawford*	
SS	MERIWEATHER	24 Gomes	37 Doughty	
FS	T. JACKSON	C. Griffin	M. Williams	
SPECIALISTS				
P	6 ROCCA			
PK	RACKERS	4 Gano		
H	6 ROCCA			
PR	16 BANKS	11 A. Robinson		
KR	16 BANKS	18 Austin	84 Paul	
LS	57 SUNDBERG			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Jacob Burney, defensive line; Chad Englehart, asst. strength & conditioning; Richmond Flowers, coaching assistant; Chris Foerster, offensive line; Jim Haslett, defensive coordinator; Richard Hightower, special-teams assistant; Ike Hilliard, wide receivers; Paul Kelly, director of football operations; Matt LaFleur, quarterbacks; Mike McDaniel, offensive assistant; Sean McVay, tight ends; Chris Morgan, offensive-line assistant; Raheem Morris, defensive backs; Bob Slowik, linebackers; Bobby Slowik, defensive assistant; Danny Smith, special-teams coordinator; Bobby Turner, asst. head coach/ running backs; Ray Wright, head strength & conditioning.

solid outside. LCB DeAngelo Hall still drops a few would-be picks per season, but he also makes them. He's a risk taker and hardly a shutdown corner, but he engages fairly well in run support. RCB Josh Wilson got better as the season went on. Small and feisty, Wilson battles with bigger receivers and will compete for the ball in the air. The concern is in the nickel. Kevin Barnes struggled in the slot role, and Griffin hasn't played inside. Brandyn Thompson, who barely saw the field as a rookie, could surprise. DeJon Gomes and Reed Doughty are best as reserve safeties. Gomes made plays near the line of scrimmage but struggled in space as a rookie.

SPECIAL TEAMS

P Sav Rocca's stats don't show his true value. His consistent kicking kept the team in games and was a major upgrade over previous Redskins punters. PK Graham Gano had a bizarre season, with four 50-yard field goals (including a 59-yarder) but also five attempts (and an extra point) blocked. Now he must battle with Neil Rackers, who made 84.2 percent of his FG attempts with Houston last season. The return teams need a boost. Brandon Banks was a disappointment in his second season, unable to hit a crease and show his home-run speed. Blocking might have been a factor, but the coverage teams were good — in part because of the strong legs of Rocca and Gano, but also because of quality cover men such as Lorenzo Alexander and Niles Paul.

SUMMARY

Some positions are clearly stronger than others and they will be relying on a rookie quarterback, but the Redskins will be a tougher out this season. The pressure on Mike Shanahan has been raised, and we know the defense has very good potential. Robert Griffin III could be this year's Cam Newton or Andy Dalton, and the Redskins' weapons appear to be stronger. It could come down to the play of two key units — the offensive line and secondary — to determine whether this is a comeback season or another year at the bottom of the still-loaded NFC East.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
97	Alexander, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	275	6	California	16/0
13	Armstrong, Anthony	WR	5-11	185	3	West Texas A&M	14/2
18	Austin, Terrence	WR	5-11	175	3	UCLA	13/0
	Bailey, Antwon	RB	5-7	201	R	Syracuse	
92	Baker, Chris	NT	6-2	329	1	Hampton	0/0
93	Balmer, Kentwan	DE	6-5	315	6	North Carolina	2/0
16	Banks, Brandon	WR	5-7	155	3	Kansas State	16/0
22	Barnes, Kevin	CB	6-1	190	4	Maryland	14/0
40	Bellamy, Travon	DB	5-11	205	1	Illinois	0/0
	Bernstine, Jordan	DB	5-10	212	R	Iowa	
72	Bowen, Stephen	DE	6-5	306	7	Hofstra	16/16
77	Brown, Jammal	OT	6-6	313	8	Oklahoma	12/12
94	Carriker, Adam	DE	6-6	315	6	Nebraska	16/16
66	Chester, Chris	OG	6-3	315	7	Oklahoma	16/16
96	Cofield, Barry	NT	6-4	306	7	Northwestern	16/16
	Compton, Tom	OT	6-5	314	R	South Dakota	
58	Cook, Erik	OG-C	6-6	320	2	New Mexico	7/2
47	Cooley, Chris	TE	6-3	255	9	Utah State	5/5
	Cousins, Kirk	QB	6-3	214	R	Michigan State	
	Crawford, Richard	CB	5-10	189	R	SMU	
	Creer, Lennon	RB	6-1	215	R	Louisiana Tech	
3	Crompton, Jonathan	QB	6-3	222	1	Tennessee	0/0
83	Davis, Fred	TE	6-4	258	5	USC	12/12
38	Davis, Tristan	RB	5-10	212	1	Auburn	0/0
37	Doughty, Reed	S	6-1	210	7	Northern Colorado	16/11
59	Fletcher, London	LB	5-10	245	15	John Carroll	16/16
4	Gano, Graham	PK	6-2	200	3	Florida State	16/0
	Garcon, Pierre	WR	6-0	210	5	Mount Union	16/16
	Garner, Grant	C	6-3	292	R	Oklahoma State	
	Gettis, Adam	OG	6-2	293	R	Iowa	
	Goff, Jonathan	LB	6-2	241	5	Vanderbilt	0/0
64	Golston, Kedric	DE	6-4	310	7	Georgia	9/0
24	Gomes, DeJon	S	5-11	200	2	Nebraska	15/5
	Griffin, Cedric	DB	6-0	203	7	Texas	16/14
10	Griffin III, Robert	QB	6-2	223	R	Baylor	
8	Grossman, Rex	QB	6-1	225	10	Florida	13/13
23	Hall, DeAngelo	CB	5-10	195	9	Virginia Tech	16/16
85	Hankerson, Leonard	WR	6-2	209	2	Miami (Fla.)	4/2
	Hanks, Darius	WR	6-0	185	R	Alabama	
29	Helu, Roy	RB	5-11	219	2	Nebraska	15/5
	Hernandez, Brian	WR	6-0	181	R	Utah	
	Holt, Donnell	LB	6-1	242	R	California	
79	Hurt, Maurice	OG	6-3	318	2	Florida	8/8
50	Jackson, Rob	LB	6-4	255	4	Kansas State	16/0
	Jackson, Tanard	FS	6-0	200	5	Syracuse	10/10
99	Jenkins, Jarvis	DE	6-4	310	2	Clemson	0/0
	Johnson, Delvin	DL	6-3	321	R	Marshall	
	Kehl, Bryan	LB	6-2	244	5	Brigham Young	14/1
91	Kerrigan, Ryan	LB	6-4	267	2	Purdue	16/16
	Kirkland, Samuel	WR	6-0	191	R	Kent State	
	Lee, James	OT	6-4	305	5	South Carolina State	3/1
	LeRibeus, Josh	OG-C	6-3	312	R	SMU	
	Lewis, Lance	WR	6-3	209	R	East Carolina	
	Lewis, Monte	LB	6-3	251	R	Jacksonville State	
78	Lichtensteiger, Kory	OG-C	6-2	292	4	Bowling Green	5/5
	Martinez, Nick	OL	6-4	307	R	Oklahoma State	
	McCaskill, Nevin	OG	6-3	309	1	Hampton	0/0
	McNally, Brian	LB	6-3	273	R	New Hampshire	
	Meriweather, Brandon	S	5-11	200	6	Miami (Fla.)	11/4
	Minnifield, Chase	CB	6-0	185	R	Virginia	
63	Montgomery, Will	C-OG	6-3	310	7	Virginia Tech	16/16
	Morgan, Josh	WR	6-1	215	5	Virginia Tech	5/5
	Morris, Alfred	RB-FB	5-9	219	R	Florida Atlantic	
89	Moss, Santana	WR	5-10	205	12	Miami (Fla.)	12/12
87	Myers, Rob	TE	6-4	239	1	Utah State	1/0
95	Neild, Chris	NT	6-2	319	2	West Virginia	16/0
98	Orakpo, Brian	LB	6-4	260	4	Texas	16/16
84	Paul, Niles	TE	6-1	224	2	Nebraska	13/2
82	Paulsen, Logan	TE	6-5	268	3	UCLA	16/6
74	Polumbus, Tyler	OT	6-8	300	4	Colorado	5/4
80	Quinn, Richard	TE	6-4	258	4	North Carolina	1/0
	Rackers, Neil	PK	6-1	202	13	Illinois	16/0
	Reliford, Beau	TE	6-6	268	R	Florida State	
56	Riley, Perry	LB	6-0	242	3	LSU	16/8
11	Robinson, Aldrick	WR	5-10	184	1	SMU	0/0
	Robinson, Keenan	LB	6-3	242	R	Texas	
6	Rocca, Sav	P	6-5	265	6	Lakeside (Australia)	16/0
35	Royster, Evan	RB	6-0	212	2	Penn State	6/2
76	Scott, Darrion	DE	6-3	310	6	Ohio State	7/0
69	Smith, Willie	OT	6-5	310	2	East Carolina	4/3
57	Sundberg, Nick	LS	6-0	250	3	California	16/0
32	Thompson, Brandyn	DB	5-10	188	2	Boise State	6/0
	Torrence, Leigh	DB	5-11	179	7	Stanford	13/0
55	White, Markus	LB	6-3	266	2	Florida State	2/0
	Williams, Madieu	S	6-1	203	9	Maryland	15/3
71	Williams, Trent	OT	6-5	318	3	Oklahoma	10/10
	Wilson, Chris	LB	6-4	247	6	Northwood (Mich.)	0/0
26	Wilson, Josh	CB	5-9	192	6	Maryland	16/16
90	Worthington, Doug	DT	6-5	292	1	Ohio State	0/0
36	Young, Darrel	FB	5-11	246	3	Villanova	13/8

GREEN BAY Packers

2012 PREDICTION: 12-4 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 15-1 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. McCARTHY

HEAD COACH: Mike McCarthy
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tom Clements
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dom Capers
PRESIDENT/CEO: Mark Murphy
STADIUM: Lambeau Field | **CAPACITY:** 72,928
PLAYING SURFACE: DD Grassmaster (natural)
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.packers.com

Despite coming off a near-perfect regular-season campaign, the Packers figure to be sporting a significantly different look in 2012, particularly on defense, where there could be as many as three new starters, and possibly more.

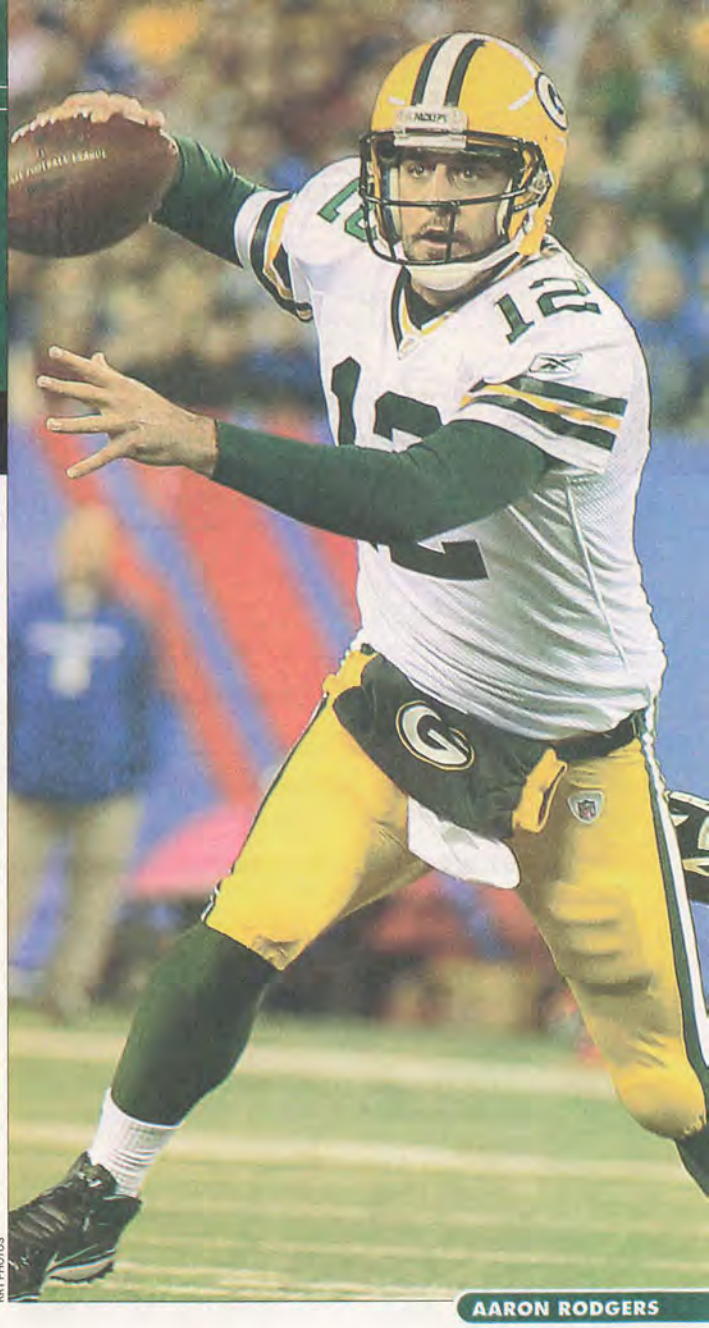
That's what happens when a defense gives up more total yards than any team in the league (400-plus yards in 11 games), surrenders the most passing yards in league history (299.8 yards per game) and registers only 29 sacks (six in the last seven games counting playoffs).

But thanks primarily to the league's highest-scoring offense (35 points per game), under the stellar direction of league MVP Aaron Rodgers, the Packers figure to be tabbed as the favorite to win this year's Super Bowl by more than a few national prognosticators.

The offense has undergone one major change, with five-time Pro Bowl C Jeff Saturday, the first unrestricted free agent to sign with the Packers in three seasons, replacing Scott Wells (who signed with the Rams) as the offensive line's new anchor.

With Rodgers delivering perfectly thrown bullets to arguably the league's most talented receiving corps and keeping mistakes to a minimum (the offense had a team-record-low 14 giveaways in 2011), the Packers once again appear to be a legitimate threat to win every game.

But knowing they can't bank on simply outscoring every opponent, a commitment to a much more fundamentally sound defense — with a greatly improved pass rush — is imperative.


KRT PHOTOS

AARON RODGERS

OFFENSE

The Packers have finished in the top 10 in total offense in every season under head coach Mike McCarthy. Tom Clements, formerly the QB coach, takes over as the offensive coordinator replacing Joe Philbin, who left to become Miami's head coach. In addition, former TE coach Ben McAdoo is the new QB coach, former RB coach Jerry Fontenot is the new TE coach and Alex Van Pelt becomes the third RB coach in three years.

QUARTERBACKS

Aaron Rodgers had one of the best seasons by a quarterback in NFL history in 2011, setting a league record with a 122.5 passer rating. Rodgers' ability to shred blitzing defenses is second to none. No QB has thrown for more yards in his first four years as a starter (17,037), and in that time, Rodgers has had only one interception returned for a TD (45-6 TD-interception ratio in 2011). Rodgers maintains great discipline and consistently takes what the defense gives him. He is adept at utilizing a variety of high-powered weapons. He has a knack for drawing defenses offside with his cadence and hard count and is excellent at buying time and escaping pressure. Graham Harrell replaces Matt Flynn (signed with the Seahawks) as Rodgers' backup. Harrell earns high marks in the classroom and on the practice field.

RUNNING BACKS

Entering his third season, James Starks is a powerful,

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

DE Anthony Hargrove, DT Daniel Muir, C Jeff Saturday.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

OT Chad Clifton, FS Nick Collins, QB Matt Flynn, CB Patrick Lee, C Scott Wells.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Aaron Rodgers

DEFENSIVE MVP
LOLB Clay Matthews

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
MLB D.J. Smith

POSITION BATTLE
ROLB: Open competition

A. RODGERS

C. MATTHEWS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
A	C+	A+	B-	C+	B+	C+	B+

physical runner who plays with a real nasty streak. But there are concerns about his ability to stay healthy. After missing 11 games in 2010 with a hamstring injury, Starks was limited down the stretch last season by knee and ankle injuries and was outperformed by veteran Ryan Grant, who averaged 60.8 yards in the final four regular-season games. With it appearing at presstime that Grant was close to signing with another team, look for a lot more production from second-year RBs Alex Green, the team's third-round draft pick in 2011, and Brandon Saine, an undrafted rookie. Before suffering a torn ACL in Week Seven, Green displayed a good burst and nifty feet. Promoted from the practice squad after Green went down, Saine proved to be a smart, well-prepared player with good speed and good hands. Pro Bowl FB John Kuhn, who knows the Packers' system inside and out, didn't handle the ball as much as he did in '10. But Kuhn still managed six TDs for the second consecutive season, despite mostly serving as a blocking back.

RECEIVERS

Greg Jennings was enjoying the best season of his career before twisting his knee in Week 14 vs. Oakland and missing the last three games. As smooth and fluid a route runner as there is in the game, Jennings is one of the league's best at beating the first defender at the line of scrimmage. He often lines up in the slot, where it's hard to play bump-and-run on him, and provides Aaron Rodgers with at least two to three big-play opportunities per game. Despite not being the featured receiver in most games, Jordy Nelson emerged as one of the league's most dangerous weapons, averaging an impressive 18.6 yards on a team-high 68 catches and scoring a team-high 15 TDs (third-most in the league). Displaying deceptive breakaway speed and great body control and field awareness, Nelson victimized defenses all year with picturesque back-shoulder receptions, often picking up hard-earned yards after his catches. After signing a new three-year, $9.6 million deal, James Jones scored a career-high seven TDs and consistently beat press coverage down the sideline. WR Randall Cobb displayed a second gear in the open field and dropped only two of 34 targeted throws in his rookie campaign. Donald Driver, the franchise's all-time leader in catches and yards receiving, still has value as a down-and-dirty, third-down slot receiver. Keep an eye on promising youngsters Tori Gurley, who has great size, and shifty, undersized Diondre Borel. TE Jermichael Finley, who's able to line up at as many as five different positions, creates consistent matchup headaches with his exceptional size and blazing speed. But he had a team-high 13 dropped passes in 17 games (including playoffs) and has had his share of knee issues. Andrew Quarless bulked up over 250 pounds and surpassed Tom Crabtree as the team's best blocking tight end before suffering a season-ending knee injury in Week 13.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

After being Peyton Manning's eyes and ears in an up-tempo, pass-oriented offense in Indianapolis, new C Jeff Saturday figures to click quickly with Aaron Rodgers and have few problems making the proper line calls. Saturday also should be a good fit in the locker room, offering valuable guidance and leadership. Marshall Newhouse, the line's weakest link last season, shapes up as the front-runner at left tackle following veteran Chad Clifton's release after failing a physical in late April. Newhouse has excellent feet and rarely makes the same mistake twice, but he must become more of a finisher after being abused last season by high-profile pass rushers such as Von Miller, Jason Pierre-Paul and Tamba Hali. ORT Bryan Bulaga improved a lot from his rookie season, cutting his penalties way down. He is a terrific technician with a natural nasty streak. The OG positions also appear to be in good hands with Josh Sitton, a brawny mauler with great reactions, on the right side and the durable T.J. Lang, who emerged as the Packers' best drive blocker in short-yardage situations, on the left side. Derek Sherrod, the team's 2011 first-round pick, and the determined Evan Dietrich-Smith provide depth outside and inside, respectively.

DEFENSE

Acknowledging the Packers' defensive shortcomings, GM Ted Thompson selected defenders with their first six picks in the draft and did not pick any offensive players until the seventh round. Defensive coordinator Dom Capers is determined to improve his unit's tackling, which left a great deal to be desired in 2011.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

B.J. Raji was not nearly as imposing an inside force in 2011 as he was in his breakout 2010 campaign. Forced to contend with a lot more double-teams, he was more effective at the three-technique than on the nose. Raji really missed the presence of Cullen Jenkins, who signed with the Eagles prior to last season. Eleven-year veteran DE Ryan Pickett had a strong '11 season, leading the D-line with 33 tackles (24 solo) and doing a great job at withstanding double-teams with his impressive bulk and balance. Second-round rookie Jerel Worthy has a good shot at becoming the starting right defensive end in the base 3-4. He has great instincts and a wicked first step, but his work ethic and maturity are open to question. Worthy will be challenged by Jarius Wynn, a

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	San Francisco	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 13	Chicago	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Seattle	8:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	New Orleans	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Houston	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 21	at St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Arizona	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	BYE	
Nov. 18	at Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	at NY Giants	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 2	Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Detroit	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Green Bay

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 8	New Orleans	(-4.5)	42-34
Sept. 18	At Carolina	(-10.5)	30-23
Sept. 25	At Chicago	(-4.5)	27-17
Oct. 2	Denver	(-12)	49-23
Oct. 9	At Atlanta	(-6)	25-14
Oct. 16	St. Louis	(-14)	24-3
Oct. 23	At Minnesota	(-10)	33-27
Oct. 30	BYE		
Nov. 6	At San Diego	(-6)	45-38
Nov. 14	Minnesota	(-13)	45-7
Nov. 20	Tampa Bay	(-14)	35-26
Nov. 24	At Detroit	(-4)	27-15
Dec. 4	At New York Giants	(-7)	38-35
Dec. 11	Oakland	(-12)	46-16
Dec. 18	At Kansas City	(-11)	14-19
Dec. 25	Chicago	(-13.5)	35-21
Jan. 1	Detroit	(+6.5)	45-41
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 15	New York Giants	(-8.5)	20-37

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**N.O.**	**@CAR.**	**@CHI.**	**DEN.**	**@ATL.**	**ST.L.**	**@MINN.**	**@S.D.**	**MINN.**	**T.B.**	**@DET.**	**@N.Y.G.**	**OAK.**	**@K.C.**	**CHI.**	**DET.**	
Score	42-34	30-23	27-17	49-23	25-14	24-3	33-27	45-38	45-7	35-26	27-15	38-35	46-16	14-19	35-21	45-41	
Total net yards	399	419	392	507	426	399	421	368	356	378	349	449	391	315	363	550	6482
Rushing yards	103	124	100	111	57	90	114	136	90	91	53	89	136	102	81	81	1558
Passing yards	296	295	292	396	369	309	307	232	266	287	296	360	255	213	282	469	4924
Rushing plays	27	21	29	28	20	31	26	26	31	23	18	28	24	18	21	24	395
Sacks allowed	2	1	2	2	4	1	4	4	3	2	2	2	4	4	1	3	41
Had intercepted	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	8
Fumbles lost	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Yards penalized	48	57	35	27	55	16	44	33	5	37	54	30	35	37	0	78	591
Punts	4	3	6	1	2	5	3	2	2	3	5	5	1	5	4	4	55

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	27:06	32:34	22:31	26:59	26:49	30:41	27:54	30:15	26:42	31:21	30:48	26:57	31:20	36:11	35:48	28:20	29:31
Total net yards	477	475	291	384	251	424	435	460	266	455	409	447	357	438	441	575	6585
Rushing yards	81	71	13	119	95	118	218	85	104	121	136	100	117	139	199	73	1789
Passing yards	396	404	278	265	156	306	217	375	162	334	273	347	240	299	242	502	4796
Rushing plays	21	21	12	23	22	24	31	21	22	20	21	20	29	39	42	15	383
Sacks allowed	3	4	3	1	1	3	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	29
Had intercepted	0	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	4	0	2	2	31
Fumbles lost	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	7
Yards penalized	15	50	70	24	44	45	91	64	80	55	82	55	89	55	28	101	948
Punts	2	2	7	2	5	5	4	2	6	3	4	4	5	2	2	3	58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Grant	9-40-0	6-25-0	17-92-0		7-18-0	9-25-0	9-29-0	4-16-0	8-6-0	4-16-0	6-20-0	13-29-0	10-85-2	12-66-0	8-44-0	12-48-0	134-559-2
Kuhn	2-5-1	1-1-1		1-3-0		2-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0		1-2-1	5-5-1	2-7-0	10-46-0	2-0-0		2-5-0	30-78-4
Rodgers	4-1-0	5-13-0	1-3-0	9-36-2	1-(-1)-0	7-15-0	2-8-0	8-52-0	6-21-0	5-28-0	1-(-1)-0	4-32-0		3-32-1	4-18-0		60-257-3
Saine											2-10-0	6-16-0	1-7-0		1-8-0	8-28-0	18-69-0
Starks	12-57-1	9-85-0	11-5-0	13-63-0	12-40-0	13-49-0	13-75-0	13-66-0	13-63-0	11-38-0	4-19-0	3-5-0			6-13-0		133-578-1

PASSING **

Flynn				0-1-1					2-2-0				0-2-0			31-44-1	33-49-2
				0-0					38-0				0-0			480-6	518-6
Rodgers	27-35-0	19-30-0	28-38-1	29-38-1	26-39-0	18-29-1	24-30-0	21-26-0	23-30-0	23-34-1	22-33-0	28-46-1	17-30-1	17-35-0	21-29-0		343-502-6
	312-3	308-2	297-3	408-4	396-2	316-3	335-3	247-4	250-4	299-3	307-2	369-4	281-2	235-1	283-5		4643-45

RECEIVING

Cobb	2-35-1	2-25-0	1-13-0	2-75-0	2-26-0	1-6-0	1-7-0		3-36-0	1-11-0	2-21-0		2-45-0	4-53-0	2-22-0		25-375-1
Crabtree	1-4-0				1-15-0					2-5-1		1-7-0			1-7-0		6-38-1
Driver	4-41-0	1-10-0		3-20-1	1-5-0	3-25-1	1-6-0	2-18-0	3-36-0	4-72-0	1-15-0	4-34-2	4-75-0	2-7-1	2-29-0	2-52-1	37-445-6
Finley	3-53-0	5-68-0	7-85-3	3-28-0	4-67-0	1-20-0	2-13-1	5-44-1	3-67-0	1-30-0	2-38-0	6-87-1		3-83-0	3-20-1	7-64-1	55-767-8
Grant	1-5-0	3-14-0			1-6-0	2-27-0			1-17-0		3-20-0	1-17-0	1-13-0	3-35-0	2-34-0	1-80-1	19-268-1
G. Jennings	7-89-1	2-55-1	9-119-0	7-103-1	4-82-1	6-82-0	7-147-1	6-46-1	3-32-1	2-6-0	5-74-1	7-94-1	2-20-0				67-949-9
J. Jones	1-1-0	1-15-0	4-24-0	3-48-1	5-140-1	1-35-1	4-63-0	1-21-1	1-9-0		3-94-1		2-29-0	2-17-0	4-50-2	6-89-0	38-635-7
Kuhn	2-7-0	1-7-0	1-7-0	1-5-0	1-6-0		1-2-1	1-4-0	2-9-1	1-(-1)-0	1-10-0			1-11-0		2-10-0	15-77-2
Nelson	6-77-1	1-84-1	3-40-0	5-91-1	3-17-0	2-104-1	4-52-0	5-105-1	5-63-2	6-123-2	4-26-0	4-94-0	3-81-1	2-29-0	6-115-2	9-162-3	68-1263-15
Saine											1-9-0	4-29-0	2-14-0			3-17-0	10-69-0
Starks		3-30-0	3-9-0	5-38-0	2-19-0	2-17-0	3-24-0	1-9-0	3-11-0	6-53-0					1-6-0		29-216-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Nick Perry	OLB	USC	28
2	Jerel Worthy	DE	Michigan State	51
2	Casey Hayward	CB	Vanderbilt	62
4	Mike Daniels	DT	Iowa	132
4	Jerron McMillian	SS	Maine	133
5	Terrell Manning	OLB	North Carolina State	163
7	Andrew Datko	OT	Florida State	241
7	B.J. Coleman	QB	Tenn.-Chattanooga	243

N. PERRY

hard worker who needs to get stronger in the upper body and become more physical with his hands. Free-agent pickup Anthony Hargrove, a mainstay in Seattle's nickel package last season and the top interior rusher for the Saints the year they won the Super Bowl, should serve as one of the two down linemen in the team's nickel package. But first, he must serve an eight-game suspension for his involvement in the Saints' Bountygate scandal. Also figuring in the D-line mix are holdover C.J. Wilson, ex-Colt Daniel Muir, fourth-round rookie Mike Daniels and possibly Mike Neal, who has missed a total of 23 games because of injuries in his two seasons with the team.

LINEBACKERS

Becoming the first Packer in nearly four decades to earn Pro Bowl honors in each of his first three seasons, LOLB Clay Matthews remained one of the league's best defenders at the point of attack. Matthews' sack total dropped from 13½ to a team-leading six in 2011. But he led the team in pressures for the third season in a row, was second on the team in tackles for loss (eight) and showed major improvement in coverage, registering a career-high three interceptions. Desmond Bishop had his best year after signing a four-year, $19 million contract before last season, leading the team in tackles despite missing three games with a strained calf. Bishop, who had a team-high 10 tackles for loss, displayed excellent awareness and made every one of his hits count. Fellow ILB A.J. Hawk was not nearly as effective after signing a five-year contract on the eve of the NFL lockout. Hawk was poor in coverage and often late reacting to the run. He failed to register a takeaway and could receive a serious challenge from second-year pro D.J. Smith, who is undersized with limited speed but showed excellent instincts and solid coverage skills as a starter in place of the injured Bishop. The front-runner at right outside linebacker is first-round rookie Nick Perry, a 4-3 defensive end in college who has a big edge on his competition in terms of sheer speed (4.5 40-time) and explosive upfield rush ability. He will compete with undersized Brad Jones, who regained the starting job in the playoffs, Erik Walden and Frank Zombo. Walden is hard to block and has good lateral movement but his play declined last season after becoming involved in a domestic disturbance. Zombo has been limited by assorted injuries the past two seasons and has trouble playing in space. Rob Francois, Jamari Lattimore, aggressive rookie Terrell Manning and the powerful Vic So'oto fill out the LB corps.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Eight-time Pro Bowl CB Charles Woodson's cover skills have declined, but he continues to have superior playmaking skills. Woodson tied for the league lead with seven interceptions, more often playing closer to the line of scrimmage like an extra linebacker or safety. But he also yielded a team-high five TD passes and whiffed on way too many tackles. Fellow starting CB Tramon Williams also had his share of problems, becoming the secondary's weakest link after looking like one of the league's best cornerbacks at the end of the previous season. Williams was never the same after colliding with FS Nick Collins in the season opener and hurting his shoulder. He had four interceptions, but dropped four others. The secondary suffered a major blow when Collins, a three-time Pro Bowler, suffered

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	**85 G. JENNINGS**	89 Ja. Jones	18 Cobb	
OLT	**74 NEWHOUSE**	78 Sherrod	77 Datko*	
OLG	**70 LANG**	62 Dietrich-Smith		
C	**63 SATURDAY**	62 Dietrich-Smith	65 Genus	
ORG	**71 SITTON**	73 Dominguez		
ORT	**75 BULAGA**	78 Sherrod	72 H. Taylor	
TE	**88 FINLEY**	81 Quarless	83 Crabtree	
WR	**87 NELSON**	80 Driver	86 Gurley	
QB	**12 RODGERS**	6 Harrell	9 Coleman*	
RB	**44 STARKS**	20 Green	33 Saine	
FB	**30 KUHN**	35 Hoese		
DEFENSE				
DLE	**79 PICKETT**	98 Wilson	91 Guy	
NT	**90 RAJI**	54 Muir	76 Daniels*	
DRE	**99 WORTHY***	94 Wynn	95 Hargrove	
LOLB	**52 MATTHEWS**	97 So'oto	57 Lattimore	
BLB	**50 HAWK**	51 Smith	56 Manning*	
MLB	**55 BISHOP**	49 Francois		
ROLB	**53 PERRY***	59 B. Jones	93 Walden	
LCB	**21 WOODSON**	24 Bush	31 House	
RCB	**38 T. WILLIAMS**	37 Shields	29 Hayward*	
SS	**26 PEPRAH**	22 McMillian*		
FS	**42 BURNETT**	43 M.D. Jennings	34 Levine	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**8 MASTHAY**			
PK	**2 CROSBY**	8 Masthay		
H	**8 MASTHAY**			
PR	**18 COBB**	87 Nelson		
KR	**18 COBB**	87 Nelson		
LS	**61 GOODE**	71 Sitton		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Edgar Bennett, wide receivers; James Campen, offensive line; Dom Capers, defensive coordinator; Tom Clements, offensive coordinator; Jerry Fontenot, tight ends; Kevin Greene, outside linebackers; Joel Hilgenberg, assistant offensive line; Thadeus Jackson, asst. strength and conditioning; Mark Lovat, strength and conditioning coordinator; Ben McAdoo, quarterbacks; Mike McCarthy, head coach; Scott McCurley, defensive quality control; Chad Morton, asst. special teams; Winston Moss, asst. head coach/inside linebackers; Darren Perry, secondary/safeties; John Rushing, offensive assistant/special teams; Shawn Slocum, special-teams coordinator; Mike Trgovac, defensive line; Alex Van Pelt, quarterbacks; Joe Whitt Jr., secondary/cornerbacks; Zac Woodfin, asst. strength & conditioning.

a season-ending, career-threatening neck injury in Week Two. After deciding the risk outweighed the reward in bringing Collins back, the team released him the day before the draft. Collins was replaced at free safety last season by Morgan Burnett, who did a surprisingly good job early on, but is much better suited for starting at strong safety. That position ended up being manned by Charlie Peprah. Peprah had five interceptions and went a second season in a row without committing a penalty, but he is much better suited for a top reserve role. Speedy Sam Shields regressed in his second season as the nickel corner and was a huge liability as a tackler. Rookies Casey Hayward and Jerron McMillian provide a pick-me-up at cornerback and safety, respectively. Hayward is very resourceful and has superb ball skills and coverage instincts. McMillian is a tackling machine who is always around the ball. The physical Jarrett Bush and second-year pros Davon House and M.D. Jennings add more depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Mason Crosby ranked fourth among NFL kickers with 140 points and had a career-best 85.7 percent field-goal accuracy rate, including bombs of 56 and 58 yards. P Tim Masthay continued to improve, setting a single-season franchise record with a 45.6-yard gross punting average. Randall Cobb was an instant sensation as the team's kickoff returner, opening the 2011 season with a franchise-record 108-yard return for a TD. Cobb also returned a punt for a touchdown in Week 10. Jarrett Bush is one of the league's most effective gunners, and rookie Jerron McMillian could give a boost here, too. Veteran Brett Goode is a near-flawless long-snapper.

SUMMARY

With a host of uncertainties, particularly on defense, and stiffer competition expected within the NFC North, the odds would appear to be against another 15-win season for the Packers. But with Rodgers working his magic, a second Super Bowl title in three seasons is hardly a stretch.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
55	Bishop, Desmond	LB	6-2	238	6	California	13/13
19	Borel, Diondre	WR	6-0	199	1	Utah State	0/0
75	Bulaga, Bryan	OT	6-5	314	3	Iowa	12/12
42	Burnett, Morgan	S	6-1	209	3	Georgia Tech	16/16
24	Bush, Jarrett	CB	6-0	200	7	Utah State	16/2
69	Campbell, Chris	OT	6-5	328	1	Eastern Illinois	0/0
18	Cobb, Randall	WR	5-10	192	2	Kentucky	15/0
9	Coleman, B.J.	QB	6-3	231	R	Tenn.-Chatanooga	
83	Crabtree, Tom	TE	6-4	245	3	Miami (Ohio)	16/9
2	Crosby, Mason	PK	6-1	207	6	Colorado	16/0
76	Daniels, Mike	DT	6-0	291	R	Iowa	
77	Datko, Andrew	OT	6-6	315	R	Florida State	
62	Dietrich-Smith, Evan	C-OG	6-2	308	3	Idaho State	16/3
73	Dominguez, Ray	OG	6-4	334	2	Arkansas	0/0
80	Driver, Donald	WR	6-0	194	14	Alcorn State	16/15
88	Finley, Jermichael	TE	6-5	247	5	Texas	16/13
49	Francois, Robert	LB	6-2	255	3	Boston College	11/2
65	Genus, Sampson	C	6-1	315	1	South Florida	0/0
61	Goode, Brett	LS	6-1	255	5	Arkansas	16/0
20	Green, Alex	RB	6-0	225	2	Hawaii	4/0
86	Gurley, Tori	WR	6-4	232	1	South Carolina	0/0
91	Guy, Lawrence	DE	6-4	304	2	Arizona State	0/0
95	Hargrove, Anthony (susp.)	DE	6-3	282	8	Georgia Tech	15/0
6	Harrell, Graham	QB	6-2	215	1	Texas Tech	0/0
50	Hawk, A.J.	LB	6-1	247	7	Ohio State	14/14
29	Hayward, Casey	CB	5-11	192	R	Vanderbilt	
17	Hill, Nick	QB	6-3	215	1	Southern Illinois	0/0
35	Hoese, Jon	FB	6-2	238	1	Minnesota	0/0
31	House, Davon	CB	6-0	195	2	New Mexico State	2/0
85	Jennings, Greg	WR	5-11	198	7	Western Michigan	13/13
43	Jennings, M.D.	S	6-0	187	2	Arkansas State	15/0
59	Jones, Brad	LB	6-3	242	4	Colorado	15/1
89	Jones, James	WR	6-1	208	6	San Jose State	16/0
67	Jones, Johnny	DL	6-4	310	1	Marshall	0/0
30	Kuhn, John	FB	6-0	250	7	Shippensburg (Pa.)	16/3
70	Lang, T.J.	OG	6-4	318	4	Eastern Michigan	16/16
57	Lattimore, Jamari	LB	6-2	230	2	Middle Tennessee	9/0
34	Levine, Anthony	S	5-11	199	1	Tennessee State	0/0
56	Manning, Terrell	LB	6-2	237	R	North Carolina State	
8	Masthay, Tim	P	6-1	200	3	Kentucky	16/0
52	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-3	255	4	USC	15/15
22	McMillian, Jerron	S	5-11	203	R	Maine	
54	Muir, Daniel	DT	6-2	322	5	Kent State	4/2
96	Neal, Mike	DE	6-3	294	3	Purdue	7/0
87	Nelson, Jordy	WR	6-3	217	5	Kansas State	16/9
74	Newhouse, Marshall	OT	6-4	319	3	TCU	16/13
26	Peprah, Charlie	S	5-11	203	7	Alabama	16/14
53	Perry, Nick	LB	6-3	265	R	USC	
79	Pickett, Ryan	DE	6-2	340	12	Ohio State	14/14
81	Quarless, Andrew	TE	6-4	252	3	Penn State	10/2
90	Raji, B.J.	DT	6-2	337	4	Boston College	16/16
12	Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	225	8	California	15/15
39	Ross, Brandian	CB	6-0	191	1	Youngstown State	0/0
33	Saine, Brandon	RB	5-11	220	2	Ohio State	8/0
63	Saturday, Jeff	C	6-2	295	14	North Carolina	16/16
78	Sherrod, Derek	OT	6-5	321	2	Mississippi State	5/0
37	Shields, Sam	CB	5-11	184	3	Miami (Fla.)	15/7
71	Sitton, Josh	OG	6-3	318	5	UCF	14/14
51	Smith, D.J.	LB	5-11	239	2	Appalachian State	16/3
16	Smithson, Shaky	WR	5-11	202	2	Utah	0/0
97	So'oto, Vic	LB	6-3	263	2	Brigham Young	7/0
44	Starks, James	RB	6-2	218	3	Buffalo	13/2
72	Taylor, Herb	OT	6-4	305	3	TCU	0/0
82	Taylor, Ryan	TE	6-3	254	2	North Carolina	15/0
93	Walden, Erik	LB	6-2	250	5	Middle Tennessee	16/15
84	Williams, D.J.	TE	6-2	245	2	Arkansas	13/0
38	Williams, Tramon	CB	5-11	191	6	Louisiana Tech	15/15
98	Wilson, C.J.	DE	6-3	290	3	East Carolina	16/2
21	Woodson, Charles	CB	6-1	202	15	Michigan	15/15
99	Worthy, Jerel	DE	6-2	308	R	Michigan State	
94	Wynn, Jarius	DE	6-3	285	4	Georgia	16/4
58	Zombo, Frank	LB	6-3	254	3	Central Michigan	5/1

2 CHICAGO Bears

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

L. SMITH

HEAD COACH: Lovie Smith
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Tice
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rod Marinelli
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: George McCaskey
STADIUM: Soldier Field | **CAPACITY:** 61,500
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.chicagobears.com

As he was peppered with questions from reporters about the Bears' decision to trade for Brandon Marshall — the team's first and most significant addition of the offseason — head coach Lovie Smith cut to the chase.

"We're trying to win games," Smith said.

Even if meant making a move for a player with some troubling incidents in his past — Marshall has several — and no guarantee that none are in his future, the Bears were willing. It's win-now mode in Chicago.

After 10 years as general manager, Jerry Angelo was fired in the wake of last season's disastrous 1-5 finish following a 7-3 start. A longtime college evaluator, Phil Emery, was hired to replace him, and he had to agree to work with Smith for the 2012 season to get the job. He gains the power to make a change at head coach after the season.

Smith is signed through 2013, but the Bears have made the playoffs only once in the past five seasons — he knows what is at stake in 2012.

The early steps to get the bad taste of last season's disappointment out of their mouths included hiring a new offensive coordinator — Mike Tice replaced Mike Martz — and reuniting Jay Cutler with Marshall — the No. 1 receiver he's never had in Chicago — and another of his old friends from Denver, QB coach Jeremy Bates.

The Bears are hoping that putting the old Broncos band back together and relying on some aging, but still strong, stars on defense leads to a return to the postseason.

SPORTSCHROMEPIX

JULIUS PEPPERS

OFFENSE

Lovie Smith didn't waste any time in searching for a new offensive coordinator once it was decided that Mike Martz would part ways with the club after two seasons. Smith promoted from within, giving Mike Tice, the Bears' offensive-line coach the past two seasons, his first shot to be a coordinator. Smith won't have to twist any arms to get a commitment to the running game anymore — Tice wants to emphasize a powerful rushing attack and, while certain pass protections and routes could change, Tice has indicated he will not alter the way the stretch-zone ground game is blocked.

QUARTERBACKS

The Bears imploded after QB Jay Cutler broke his thumb while trying to make a tackle after throwing an interception in Week 10 last season. Cutler missed the final six games and the Bears went 1-5 without him after starting the season 7-3. Cutler said as early as March that his thumb had healed, though, and he enters his seventh NFL season in good condition, despite regularly taking a beating from pass rushers during his three seasons in Chicago. Cutler is about as tough as they come and his teammates fight for him. Evaluators say he is managing the game better than he did earlier in his career. He's not making as many dumb mistakes and doesn't try to force the ball as much, although he still will do so on occasion. Cutler is a rare talent with a great combination of arm strength

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

RB Michael Bush, QB Jason Campbell, CB Kelvin Hayden, WR Brandon Marshall, WR-RS Eric Weems.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

DT Anthony Adams, CB Zack Bowman, CB Corey Graham, S Brandon Meriweather, OL Frank Omiyale.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Jay Cutler

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE Julius Peppers

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
ORT Gabe Carimi

POSITION BATTLE
LCB: Tim Jennings vs. Kelvin Hayden

J. CUTLER

J. PEPPERS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B+	A-	B	D	B	B	C	A

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	at Green Bay	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 23	St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Jacksonville	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 14	BYE	
Oct. 22	Detroit	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	Houston	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 19	at San Francisco	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	Seattle	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Arizona	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Detroit	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Chicago

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Atlanta	(+2)	30-12
Sept. 18	At New Orleans	(+5.5)	13-30
Sept. 25	Green Bay	(+4.5)	17-27
Oct. 2	Carolina	(-7)	34-29
Oct. 10	At Detroit	(+6.5)	13-24
Oct. 16	Minnesota	(-2.5)	39-10
Oct. 23	At Tampa Bay	(-1.5)	24-18
Oct. 30	BYE		
Nov. 7	At Philadelphia	(+8)	30-24
Nov. 13	Detroit	(-2.5)	37-13
Nov. 20	San Diego	(-4.5)	31-20
Nov. 27	At Oakland	(+3)	20-25
Dec. 4	Kansas City	(-8.5)	3-10
Dec. 11	At Denver	(+3)	10-13*
Dec. 18	Seattle	(-3.5)	14-38
Dec. 25	At Green Bay	(+13.5)	21-35
Jan. 1	At Minnesota	(+2.5)	17-13

* Overtime

and mobility. He puts good touch on the ball, fires it with a tight spiral when he needs to and makes plays with his feet. The failure to have a competent backup for Cutler last season proved very costly, but the Bears corrected that mistake with the addition of Jason Campbell, who has 70 career starts under his belt. He has decent arm strength and likes to be on the move. Josh McCown, who started the last two games of last season for the Bears, and 2011 fifth-round pick Nathan Enderle will compete to fill out the depth chart at quarterback.

RUNNING BACKS

Matt Forté is coming off his first Pro Bowl appearance after further solidifying his standing as one of the league's most complete backs. He's an unselfish pass blocker who will get low to gain leverage. Forté's agility and good hands make him a great pass catcher and a safety valve on check-downs for Jay Cutler. The fifth-year veteran can adjust instinctively, and he has elite football intelligence — coaches need to tell him what to do only once. He's not the most elusive runner, but he has good size and strength and can make a defender miss. He will be complemented by ex-Raiders RB Michael Bush, a physical, downhill and punishing runner. Bush is a capable receiver with decent speed. He will overextend at times in pass protection. Kahlil Bell is the No. 3 back, but he showed promise when he saw extended time as the featured back late last season. Ball security has been an issue for him, though. FB Tyler Clutts serves as a tough, collision blocker with a blue-collar mentality.

RECEIVERS

A failure to finally end the franchise's streak of seasons without a 1,000-yard receiver at nine would be a big disappointment for the Bears. Jay Cutler finally has a true No. 1 wide receiver and it's a familiar target in Brandon Marshall, who had the two most productive seasons of his career when he was catching Cutler's passes as a Bronco. Marshall has a rare blend of size and athleticism. He's a long-strider with build-up speed and shows a second gear when the ball is in the air. Drops have been an issue for him at times, and he was known to take a few plays off earlier in his career. The Bears were willing to take a chance on him, but his history of off-field problems is a concern, and he will have to be monitored closely. Second-round pick Alshon Jeffery is expected to step right in and be the starting "Z" receiver. Jeffery is heavy-bodied and has average explosion, but he can go up and get it — he has great size and arm length and a wide catching radius. Slot receiver Earl Bennett is willing to do the dirty work. He uses his short-area quickness and good strength to make plays in traffic. Devin Hester has great lateral agility and speed and can break loose when he gets the ball in the open field, but his hands and route-running are too inconsistent. Speedy Johnny Knox is coming off back surgery and it's unclear when he'll be able to play, if at all. Starting TE Kellen Davis — a big, long underachiever — will be used more as a receiver after functioning mainly as a blocker in Mike Martz's offense. No. 2 TE Matt Spaeth is one of the better blockers at his position in the league. He has good size and can drive defenders off the line in one-on-one matchups. Athletic rookie TE/H-back Evan Rodriguez is immature, but he has good hands and playmaking ability.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

No position group has taken more of a beating — literally and figuratively — than the Bears' offensive line over the past few years. Since the start of the 2009 season, no team has allowed more sacks than the Bears (140). The group has been at its best when the offense emphasizes a power-running game and a quick-strike aerial attack, and the club is confident that Mike Tice's approach as coordinator will serve this group well. The veteran leader up front is Roberto Garza, a strong, sound technician who made a seamless transition from guard to center last season. The Bears have some options at guard. Chris Williams has fared slightly better at left guard than he did at left tackle but has yet to find a home. OG-C Chris Spencer and the feisty, physical and very athletic ORG-ORT Lance Louis offer versatility. OG-C Edwin Williams has proven to be a serviceable fill-in over the past two seasons. OG Chilo Rachal lost his starting job with the 49ers last season but plays with power. OLT J'Marcus Webb is still very much a work in progress. He has good height and length, but is not a good finisher and will get overextended at times. The Bears often have to send help to his side in pass protection. Gabe Carimi, a first-round pick in 2011, made two starts, but played just 1½ games before knee issues took over and ended his rookie season. He has the toughness and length to be an anchor at right tackle and the potential to be the team's best O-lineman if he can stay healthy.

DEFENSE

While its best players are above the age of 30 and get stuck with the "old" label frequently, the Bears' defense produced three Pro Bowlers last season and still has the potential to be one of the league's most effective units. Head coach Lovie Smith and coordinator Rod Marinelli preach opportunistic football. Their words are heeded. While the Bears fell from ninth to 17th in yards allowed and

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**ATL.**	**@N.O.**	**G.B.**	**CAR.**	**@DET.**	**MINN.**	**@T.B.**	**@PHIL.**	**DET.**	**S.D.**	**@OAK.**	**K.C.**	**@DEN.**	**SEA.**	**@G.B.**	**@MINN.**	
Score	30-12	13-30	17-27	34-29	13-24	39-10	24-18	30-24	37-13	31-20	20-25	3-10	10-13	14-38	21-35	17-13	
Total net yards	377	246	291	317	359	377	395	372	216	378	401	181	245	221	441	209	5026
Rushing yards	88	60	13	224	122	119	177	164	109	92	172	93	159	132	199	92	2015
Passing yards	289	186	278	93	237	258	218	208	107	286	229	88	86	89	242	117	3011
Rushing plays	27	12	12	31	25	28	33	34	35	32	27	24	38	31	42	25	456
Sacks allowed	5	6	3	1	3	1	2	0	2	0	4	7	4	4	0	7	49
Had intercepted	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	3	0	4	2	1	20
Fumbles lost	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	9
Yards penalized	56	47	70	45	104	15	54	53	37	61	61	35	69	45	28	20	800
Punts	6	8	7	4	5	3	6	3	6	3	5	7	11	6	2	7	89

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	26:41	36:14	37:29	33:29	20:57	29:20	26:48	26:33	30:54	26:50	30:02	32:42	31:18	31:37	24:12	31:14	29:47
Total net yards	386	382	392	543	395	286	280	330	393	332	341	252	345	286	363	301	5607
Rushing yards	110	118	100	169	181	53	30	119	80	52	73	113	124	60	81	79	1542
Passing yards	276	264	292	374	214	233	250	211	313	280	268	139	221	226	282	222	4065
Rushing plays	14	29	29	26	20	17	11	23	19	17	27	37	34	33	21	27	384
Sacks allowed	5	1	2	0	1	5	1	1	2	0	4	2	5	1	1	2	33
Had intercepted	1	0	1	1	1	0	4	1	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	3	20
Fumbles lost	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	11
Yards penalized	65	41	35	52	94	40	69	44	53	20	44	60	28	36	0	38	719
Punts	5	5	6	2	5	5	8	2	5	3	5	11	8	5	4	6	85

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Barber				5-17-1	1-3-0	11-32-1	6-39-1	9-31-1	13-27-0	7-25-1	10-63-0	14-44-0	27-108-1	11-33-0			114-422-6
Bell	10-24-0	1-(-1)-0										4-34-0	9-40-0	15-65-0	23-121-0	17-54-0	79-337-0
Cutler		1-12-0	3-11-0	1-2-0	2-3-0		1-(-1)-0	1-0-0	4-18-0	5-10-1							18-55-1
Forte	16-68-0	10-49-0	9-2-0	25-205-1	22-116-0	17-87-0	25-145-1	24-133-0	18-64-1	20-57-0	12-59-0	5-12-0					203-997-3

PASSING **

Cutler	22-32-1 312-2	19-45-0 244-1	21-37-2 302-2	9-17-1 102-0	28-38-0 249-1	21-31-0 267-2	17-32-2 226-1	18-32-0 208-2	9-19-0 123-0	18-31-1 286-2							182-314-7 2319-13
Hanie											18-36-3 254-2	11-24-3 133-0	12-19-0 115-0	10-23-3 111-1			51-102-9 613-3
McCown														1-2-1 12-0	19-28-2 242-1	15-25-1 160-1	35-55-4 414-2

RECEIVING

Bell													5-24-0	5-43-1	4-38-0	5-28-0	19-133-1
Bennett	2-11-0	1-9-0						5-95-1	6-81-0	3-75-0	1-5-0	1-5-0		1-20-0	1-49-0	3-31-0	24-381-1
K. Davis	2-23-0		1-32-1		3-25-1	2-27-0		1-(-1)-0		1-4-1	2-25-1	2-40-0		1-10-0	3-21-1		18-206-5
Forte	5-90-1	10-117-0	7-80-0	4-23-0	4-35-0	6-36-0	2-38-0	3-17-0	1-3-0	4-26-0	6-25-0						52-490-1
Hester	3-60-0	1-17-0	3-62-0		5-32-0	5-91-1	4-46-0	1-12-0				3-35-0				1-14-0	26-369-1
Hurd		1-13-0	1-17-0		4-50-0				1-21-0		1-8-0						8-109-0
Knox	3-60-0	2-45-0	4-84-0	3-48-0	2-17-0	2-41-0	3-53-0	1-14-0	1-18-0	3-97-1	4-145-1	5-53-0	3-37-0	1-15-0			37-727-2
Sanzenbacher	1-6-0	3-33-1	5-27-1	1-16-0	6-64-0	1-13-1	2-13-0							2-26-0	4-51-0	2-27-0	27-276-3
Spaeth	2-7-1				1-8-0			2-13-1		1-13-0	1-9-0						7-50-2
R. Williams	4-55-0			1-15-0	1-11-0	3-50-0	4-59-1	3-46-0		5-62-0	3-37-0		2-22-0	1-9-0	6-81-0	4-60-1	37-507-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2011 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Shea McClellin	DE	Boise State	19
2	Alshon Jeffery	WR	South Carolina	45
3	Brandon Hardin	FS	Oregon State	79
4	Evan Rodriguez	TE	Temple	111
6	Isaiah Frey	CB	Nevada	184
7	Greg McCoy	CB-KR	TCU	220

S. McCLELLIN

fourth to 14th in points allowed last season — there were breakdowns, particularly early on — they once again were among the league leaders in takeaways. The cover-2 is still a big part of Chicago's identity, but it's not all the Bears do. They played a lot of man at times last season.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bears went into free agency looking to upgrade their pass rush, but didn't land the defensive end they targeted — Jacksonville's Jeremy Mincey — and let DT Amobi Okoye, who recorded four sacks as a rotational three-technique, walk. The team needs a D-lineman to step up and take advantage of the one-on-one matchups that are often provided when playing on the line with DRE Julius Peppers, and competitive, instinctive first-round pick Shea McClellin is going to get a chance to fill that void. Peppers, a rare athlete with freakish ability, is one of the league's best all-around defensive ends. He's tough and willing to play through pain. The high-motored McClellin lacks ideal strength but has a quick first step and the versatility to play linebacker. DLE Israel Idonije has great arm length and quick hands, but he's not explosive rushing from the outside. Corey Wootton could get another shot to become a factor, but he has struggled to stay healthy. The Bears are very high on three-technique Henry Melton. He recorded seven sacks last season, but only four in the final 13 games. He flashes, but disappears for stretches and gets washed away sometimes. He has great quickness off the snap for his size and can be effective in stunts and games. At nose tackle, Matt Toeaina and Stephen Paea, a 2011 second-round pick, have bull strength to hold the point and play with great energy, but Paea's technique needs refinement and Toeaina doesn't provide much as a pass rusher.

LINEBACKERS

Chicago's longtime defensive tone-setter, MLB Brian Urlacher, is not showing any signs of decline. League evaluators said he looked even more spry and active in 2011 than he did a season earlier. He's extremely instinctive and has great speed. He will occasionally get caught out of position. Urlacher has a hard time breaking free when a blocker with power gets into his numbers. His trusted sidekick, Lance Briggs, has been named to seven consecutive Pro Bowls, but some league evaluators said Briggs' performance dipped a bit last season. He's an active, run-and-hit weak-side linebacker who can pack a punch. Nick Roach, who is asked to do the dirty work in the Bears' linebacker corps, plays on the strong side. He's athletic but lacks size and bulk and is not the thumper they ideally would have at the position. Ex-Buccaneer Geno Hayes fits best on the weak side but will get a chance to compete for the starting job on the strong side.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

RCB Charles Tillman, a long, physical, opportunistic stalwart for the Bears, is coming off the first Pro Bowl nod of his career. He has good height, size, instincts and leaping ability and is adept at punching the ball away, but he struggles to match up with elite speed. There could be competition to start opposite Tillman. Tim Jennings, an aggressive, undersized corner, was re-signed after being benched late last season, and the Bears added Kelvin Hayden and Jonathan Wilhite in free agency. Both Hayden and Wilhite have experience playing outside and in the slot. Hayden has struggled to stay healthy over the past four seasons, as he has battled hamstring, neck and knee injuries. He has good playmaking ability, though.

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	15 MARSHALL	14 Weems	13 Knox
OLT	73 WEBB	78 Brown*	
OLG	74 C. WILLIAMS	70 E. Williams	
C	63 GARZA	67 Spencer	
ORG	60 LOUIS	62 Rachal	76 Wrotto
ORT	72 CARIMI	79 Horn	
TE	87 K. DAVIS	89 Spaeth	88 Rodriguez*
WR	17 JEFFERY*	80 Bennett	23 Hester
QB	6 CUTLER	2 Campbell	12 McCown
RB	22 FORTE	29 Bush	32 Bell
FB	44 CLUTTS	88 Rodriguez*	
DEFENSE			
DLE	99 McCLELLIN*	71 Idonije	94 C. Davis
NT	75 TOEAINA	92 Paea	
DT	69 MELTON		
DRE	90 PEPPERS	98 Wootton	93 Gibson
SLB	53 ROACH	91 Hayes	57 J. Williams
MLB	54 URLACHER	58 DeCicco	52 Costanzo
WLB	55 BRIGGS	91 Hayes	97 J. Thomas
LCB	26 JENNINGS	24 Hayden	27 Wilhite
RCB	33 TILLMAN	30 Moore	31 Frey*
SS	21 WRIGHT	35 Hardin*	20 Steltz
FS	47 CONTE	37 Walters	
SPECIALISTS			
P	8 PODLESH		
PK	9 GOULD		
H	8 PODLESH		
PR	23 HESTER	14 Weems	
KR	23 HESTER	14 Weems	11 D. Thomas
LS	65 MANNELLY		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Jim Arthur, strength and conditioning; Bob Babich, linebackers; Jeremy Bates, quarterbacks; Gill Byrd, asst. defensive backs/safeties; Mike DeBord, tight ends; Darryl Drake, wide receivers; Andrew Hayes-Stoker, offensive quality control; Jon Hoke, defensive backs; Tim Holt, offensive line; Rusty Jones, director of physical development; Rod Marinelli, asst. head coach/defensive coordinator; Kevin O'Dea, asst. special teams; Mike Phair, defensive line; Lovie Smith, head coach; Mikal Smith, defensive quality control; Tim Spencer, running backs; Mike Tice, offensive coordinator; Dave Toub, special-teams coordinator.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
86	Adams, Kyle	TE	6-4	255	2	Purdue	9/0
38	Alexander, Alvester	RB	5-10	206	R	Wyoming	
25	Allen, Armando	RB	5-10	190	1	Notre Dame	2/0
32	Bell, Kahlil	RB	5-11	219	4	UCLA	13/3
80	Bennett, Earl	WR	6-0	206	5	Vanderbilt	11/4
55	Briggs, Lance	LB	6-1	244	10	Arizona	16/16
78	Brown, James	OT-OG	6-4	306	R	Troy	
29	Bush, Michael	RB	6-1	245	6	Louisville	16/9
79	Cameron, Ronnie	DT	6-2	304	R	Old Dominion	
2	Campbell, Jason	QB	6-5	230	8	Auburn	6/6
72	Carimi, Gabe	OT	6-7	316	2	Wisconsin	2/2
44	Clutts, Tyler	FB	6-2	260	2	Fresno State	16/8
95	Cole, Adrien	LB	5-11	235	R	Louisiana Tech	
47	Conte, Chris	FS	6-2	203	2	California	14/9
52	Costanzo, Blake	LB	6-1	235	6	Lafayette	16/0
43	Coston, Trevor	S	5-10	199	R	Maine	
81	Crump, Terriun	WR	6-2	223	R	Western Illinois	
6	Cutler, Jay	QB	6-3	220	7	Vanderbilt	10/10
94	Davis, Chauncey	DE	6-2	271	8	Florida State	6/0
87	Davis, Kellen	TE	6-7	267	5	Michigan State	16/15
58	DeCicco, Dom	LB	6-4	230	2	Pittsburgh	16/0
10	Enderle, Nathan	QB	6-4	240	2	Idaho	0/0
22	Forté, Matt	RB	6-2	218	5	Tulane	12/12
31	Frey, Isaiah	CB	5-11	190	R	Nevada	
63	Garza, Roberto	C	6-2	310	12	Texas A&M-Kingsville	16/16
93	Gibson, Thaddeus	DE	6-2	243	2	Ohio State	2/0
82	Golden, Brittan	WR	5-11	186	R	West Texas A&M	
9	Gould, Robbie	PK	6-0	185	8	Penn State	16/0
75	Greene, A.J.	OT	6-5	298	R	Auburn	
35	Hardin, Brandon	SS	6-3	222	R	Oregon State	
24	Hayden, Kelvin	CB	6-0	195	8	Illinois	8/1
91	Hayes, Geno	OLB	6-1	226	5	Florida State	16/13
64	Henry, Ricky	OG	6-4	310	2	Nebraska	2/0
23	Hester, Devin	WR	5-11	190	7	Miami (Fla.)	16/8
79	Horn, Levi	OT	6-7	315	2	Montana	0/0
71	Idonije, Israel	DL	6-6	275	9	Manitoba	16/16
17	Jeffery, Alshon	WR	6-3	216	R	South Carolina	
26	Jennings, Tim	CB	5-8	185	7	Georgia	16/15
46	Jones, Jeremy	S	5-10	197	R	Wayne State (Mich.)	
13	Knox, Johnny	WR	6-0	185	4	Abilene Christian	14/11
60	Louis, Lance	OG-OT	6-3	320	4	San Diego State	14/13
65	Mannelly, Patrick	LS	6-5	265	15	Duke	10/0
15	Marshall, Brandon	WR	6-4	230	7	UCF	16/16
99	McClellin, Shea	DE	6-3	260	R	Boise State	
12	McCown, Josh	QB	6-4	213	10	Sam Houston State	3/2
39	McCoy, Greg	CB	5-10	181	R	TCU	
69	Melton, Henry	DT	6-3	295	4	Texas	15/15
96	Miller, Jordan	DT	6-2	315	1	Southern	0/0
30	Moore, D.J.	CB	5-9	180	4	Vanderbilt	13/1
92	Paea, Stephen	DT	6-1	300	2	Oregon State	11/0
90	Peppers, Julius	DE	6-7	287	11	North Carolina	16/16
8	Podlesh, Adam	P	5-11	200	6	Maryland	16/0
62	Rachal, Chilo	OG	6-5	323	5	USC	16/3
53	Roach, Nick	LB	6-1	234	6	Northwestern	16/15
88	Rodriguez, Evan	TE	6-2	244	R	Temple	
84	Ross, Draylen	TE	6-4	271	1	North Texas	0/0
18	Sanzenbacher, Dane	WR	5-11	180	2	Ohio State	16/1
85	Smith, Andre	TE	6-5	267	2	Virginia Tech	0/0
89	Spaeth, Matt	TE	6-7	260	6	Minnesota	15/8
67	Spencer, Chris	C-OG	6-3	309	8	Mississippi	15/14
20	Steltz, Craig	S	6-1	210	5	LSU	16/5
68	Stephens, Reggie	OG	6-2	325	2	Iowa State	0/0
83	Summers, Chris	WR	6-5	213	R	Liberty	
11	Thomas, Devin	WR	6-2	221	5	Michigan State	16/0
97	Thomas, J.T.	LB	6-1	236	2	West Virginia	0/0
62	Thornton, Ronnie	LB	6-2	244	R	Southern Mississippi	
33	Tillman, Charles	CB	6-2	198	10	Louisiana-Lafayette	16/16
75	Toeaina, Matt	DT	6-2	308	5	Oregon	12/12
59	Trahan, Patrick	LB	6-2	236	2	Mississippi	5/0
45	Unga, Harvey	RB	6-0	237	2	Brigham Young	0/0
54	Urlacher, Brian	MLB	6-4	258	13	New Mexico	16/16
37	Walters, Anthony	S	6-1	207	2	Delaware	4/0
36	Warren, Donovan	CB	5-11	193	1	Michigan	0/0
73	Webb, J'Marcus	OT	6-7	333	3	West Texas A&M	16/16
14	Weems, Eric	WR-RS	5-9	195	6	Bethune-Cookman	16/2
27	Wilhite, Jonathan	CB	5-11	185	5	Auburn	15/2
74	Williams, Chris	OG-OT	6-6	320	5	Vanderbilt	9/9
70	Williams, Edwin	OG-C	6-3	315	3	Maryland	15/7
57	Williams, Jabara	LB	6-2	238	2	Stephen F. Austin	5/0
98	Wootton, Corey	DE	6-6	270	3	Northwestern	7/0
21	Wright, Major	SS	5-11	204	3	Florida	12/11
76	Wrotto, Mansfield	OG	6-3	310	5	Georgia Tech	0/0

Wilhite is fluid in his hips but lacks ball skills. Nickel back D.J. Moore is undersized. He plays physical, jumps routes, is smooth in and out of his breaks and has great ball skills. The Bears have a young safety tandem in FS Chris Conte and SS Major Wright. Conte looks the part. He doesn't always take good angles and will miss tackles in the open field. He fits better in zone coverage and is better vs. the pass. Wright has decent ball skills, but he gets caught lunging in space at times. Heavy-hitting rookie SS Brandon Hardin could push Wright and will help on special teams. Serviceable backup safety Craig Steltz is dependable in run support. He doesn't have great range, though.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Dave Toub's special-teams units are the team's greatest strength, and folks around the league are taking notice — Toub interviewed for the Dolphins' head-coaching job in January. In 2011, Devin Hester added to his NFL record for kick-return touchdowns (17), taking three kickoffs back for scores. He also led the league with a 16.2-yard punt-return average. Hester will be the top returner on punts, but the Bears added some quality depth, signing ex-Falcon Eric Weems (a special-teams All-Pro in 2010) and ex-Giants standout Devin Thomas in the offseason, and they could share time with Hester as the kickoff returner. If healthy, Johnny Knox is also a dangerous returner. Robbie Gould had built a reputation as a very accurate placekicker within 39 yards, but he showed off his long strength last season, making a franchise-record six field goals (on six attempts) of 50 yards or longer. P Adam Podlesh achieved a career high for net average (40.4) in his first season with the Bears. He doesn't have elite leg strength, but generates good pop and hang time.

SUMMARY

The Bears are not the most complete team in their division, but they consider themselves Super Bowl contenders and have the potential to be in the thick of the playoff race late in the season with the upgrades and quality depth added by GM Phil Emery.

3 DETROIT Lions

2012 PREDICTION: 9-7 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 10-6 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. SCHWARTZ

HEAD COACH: Jim Schwartz
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Scott Linehan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Gunther Cunningham
OWNER AND CHAIRMAN: William Clay Ford
STADIUM: Ford Field | **CAPACITY:** 65,000
PLAYING SURFACE: Field Turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.detroitlions.com

The Lions' first playoff season in more than a decade did not lack for excitement. Detroit started the 2011 campaign with five consecutive wins, hit some turbulence — some of it self-inflicted — but rallied late to grab a wild-card spot.

This was a team that lived on the edge. The highs showcased Detroit's vast potential. The Lions overcame a 20-point deficit to beat Minnesota, a 24-point margin at Dallas and a 13-point hole at Oakland and emerged victorious each time.

The Lions' lows, however, were painful to watch. DT Ndamukong Suh stomped an opponent and was suspended for two games. Head coach Jim Schwartz got into a heated postgame confrontation with the 49ers' Jim Harbaugh that was the talk of the league. Penalties were a major concern; only two teams were flagged more. Finally, at season's end, the defense fell apart, and Detroit offered but fleeting resistance in a first-round playoff loss at New Orleans.

With an outstanding passing game led by WR Calvin Johnson and QB Matthew Stafford, the Lions are never out of any game. A swarming, playmaking defense has its moments, too.

No one will overlook the Lions in 2012, not after a playoff berth — and not with all of that talent. The Lions' upside isn't lost on anyone who's ever watched Johnson beat double coverage with ease. But can they build on the vast potential they showed a season ago, or will these high-strung Lions prove to be their own worst enemy?

SPORTPICS

CALVIN JOHNSON

OFFENSE

No team attempted more passing plays in 2011 than the Lions, with 702 pass dropbacks (attempts and sacks) compared to a mere 356 rushes. Thanks to its outstanding passing and receiving personnel, the approach succeeded. If the Lions' running backs can stay healthy, and if Detroit can build more early leads, the ground game will be featured more. However, look for offensive coordinator Scott Linehan to continue to emphasize the pass over the run. QB Matthew Stafford frequently operates out of the shotgun, and the team's talented pass-catching corps allows for significant use of spread formations.

QUARTERBACKS

Such was the quality of quarterback play in the NFC in 2011 that Lions QB Matthew Stafford didn't even make the Pro Bowl, but make no mistake — he had a first-rate season on numerous levels. He was a workhorse passer, completing 421-of-663 passes for 5,038 yards with 41 TDs and just 16 interceptions. He started every game, playing through a finger injury that hampered him for a few weeks. He fared well in pressure situations, leading comeback wins at Minnesota, Detroit and Oakland. His rapport with Calvin Johnson was never clearer than when the Lions most needed to make a play. "We'd look at each other and we knew we needed to go out there and take it over," Stafford said at season's end. Stafford has rare arm strength and does not need to have his feet set to deliver the ball downfield. He also throws

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
DE Everette Brown, CB Jacob Lacey.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
OLB Bobby Carpenter, QB Drew Stanton, CB Eric Wright.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
WR Calvin Johnson

DEFENSIVE MVP
DT Ndamukong Suh

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
WR Titus Young

POSITION BATTLE
RCB: Open competition

C. JOHNSON

N. SUH

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B+	D	A	C	A-	B-	C	C

with accuracy and touch. Just 24, Stafford could be an elite passer for years to come. Shaun Hill is one of the better backup quarterbacks in the game. He throws with rhythm and touch, which compensates for a lack of arm strength.

RUNNING BACKS

Durability looms as the concern at this key position. Injuries to RBs Jahvid Best, Mikel Leshoure and Kevin Smith put the offense in a tough spot a season ago. Best is swift and elusive, but he is on the slight side, and he has a history of concussions. In fact, he suffered two concussions last season and will have to be cleared to return this season. He is a strong fit in this pass-oriented attack — a playmaking space player who catches the ball well. Leshoure, drafted to be a bigger, physical complement to Best, missed his entire rookie season because of an Achilles tendon injury. Also, he was twice arrested on marijuana charges in the offseason. One of the charges remained unresolved as of presstime, and he faces possible NFL discipline. Kevin Smith was a pleasant surprise in 2011, leading the team in rushing after re-signing in November. Smith runs hard and contributes in the passing game, but he has had his struggles staying healthy, too. Keiland Williams and Joique Bell will vie to make the club as physical, inside runners.

RECEIVERS

Calvin Johnson had a special 2011 season. The regular-season statistics — 96 receptions, 1,681 yards and 16 TDs — tell part of the story. More than anything else, his dominance in numerous key situations — his sheer, utter inability to be stopped — is what defined his remarkable campaign. He played a starring role in comeback wins at Minnesota, Dallas and Oakland, catching the game-winning TD in the latter two contests. Without him, the Lions would not have made the playoffs. The 6-5, 236-pound Johnson can stress secondaries every which way. He's a major vertical threat, possessing the speed to leave defensive backs behind in a few long strides. His strength and leaping ability makes him a force on jump balls. He may be the most difficult red-zone matchup in the game; teams that dare to single-cover him are inviting trouble. The problem with double-teaming Johnson, of course, is that it takes coverage away from other receivers — not to mention that it doesn't always work. The Lions' other starting wideout, Nate Burleson, is a solid possession threat who has some run-after-the-catch ability. Second-year pro Titus Young possesses rare speed, showed significant potential as a rookie and figures to play frequently. He could stand to become more disciplined; he committed nine penalties as a rookie. Rookie Ryan Broyles comes off an ACL tear and could have his greatest impact down the road if he returns to pre-injury form. The Lions are deep at tight end. Tall, strong and athletic, Brandon Pettigrew is a key short-to-intermediate target; only Johnson had more passes thrown his direction in this offense a season ago. The Lions' second tight end, Tony Scheffler, is a threat in his own right. Six of his 26 receptions went for touchdowns a season ago. Scheffler is yet another Lions pass catcher whose downfield speed is an asset.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Lions quarterbacks were sacked 36 times a season ago, a fairly acceptable total, considering the high volume of passing. The team frequently operates out of the shotgun, which gives QB Matthew Stafford an instant more to scan the field and sets him farther back from the initial rush, which aids the pass protection. OLT Jeff Backus, who has never missed a regular-season start in 11 seasons, signed a new two-year contract in March. He is a viable starter at the position for the time being. Backus, who's expected to be ready for the season after suffering a biceps injury in the playoff loss to New Orleans, moves fairly well, but he has short arms and can get pushed back toward the quarterback. No. 1 pick Riley Reiff figures to be Backus' eventual replacement. He has an ideal blend of size and athleticsm and knows how to position himself well, but like Backus, he lacks long arms. OLG Rob Sims has a good combination of size and athleticism for the position. He is not especially physical, though. C Dominic Raiola is smart and dependable, and he has some quickness. The Lions most frequently rushed up the middle a season ago and gained 4.3 yards per carry. ORG Stephen Peterman cut down on his penalties in 2011, plays hard and possesses good size, but he is susceptible to the bull rush. ORT Gosder Cherilus has long arms and moves relatively well, but he allowed nine sacks in 2011. His durability has been a concern, though he did play all 16 games a season ago. Corey Hilliard, Jason Fox and Johnny Culbreath will also vie for reserve roles at tackle. Dylan Gandy and Dan Gerberry provide depth inside.

DEFENSE

This is an attacking, aggressive defense that can shut the lights out on the opposition in some games and give up far too many plays in others. It plays with the passion you would expect from a Jim Schwartz- and Gunther Cunningham-led defense. Sometimes, the defense is its own worst enemy, making mistakes and committing costly penalties. The key is a deep, talented, disruptive line

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at San Francisco	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	BYE	
Oct. 14	at Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 22	at Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	Seattle	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	Houston	12:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Green Bay	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Arizona	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 22	Atlanta	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 30	Chicago	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Detroit

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Tampa Bay	(+1.5)	27-20
Sept. 18	Kansas City	(-8)	48-3
Sept. 25	At Minnesota	(-3)	26-23*
Oct. 2	At Dallas	(+2.5)	34-30
Oct. 10	Chicago	(-6.5)	24-13
Oct. 16	San Francisco	(-5)	19-25
Oct. 23	Atlanta	(-4.5)	16-23
Oct. 30	At Denver	(-3)	45-10
Nov. 6	BYE		
Nov. 13	At Chicago	(+2.5)	13-37
Nov. 20	Carolina	(-7)	49-35
Nov. 24	Green Bay	(+4)	15-27
Dec. 4	At New Orleans	(+9)	17-31
Dec. 11	Minnesota	(-10)	34-28
Dec. 18	At Oakland	(-3)	28-27
Dec. 24	San Diego	(0)	38-10
Jan. 1	At Green Bay	(-6.5)	41-45
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 7	At New Orleans	(+10.5)	28-45

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@T.B.**	**K.C.**	**@MINN.**	**@DALL.**	**CHI.**	**S.F.**	**ATL.**	**@DEN.**	**@CHI.**	**CAR.**	**G.B.**	**@N.O.**	**MINN.**	**@OAK.**	**S.D.**	**@G.B.**	
Score	27-20	48-3	26-23	34-30	24-13	19-25	16-23	45-10	13-37	49-35	15-27	17-31	34-28	28-27	38-10	41-45	
Total net yards	431	411	358	303	395	310	263	376	393	495	409	466	280	432	440	575	6337
Rushing yards	126	89	20	63	181	66	104	113	80	169	136	87	72	57	87	73	1523
Passing yards	305	322	338	240	214	244	159	263	313	326	273	379	208	375	353	502	4814
Rushing plays	35	30	19	17	20	18	20	28	19	29	21	22	21	19	23	15	356
Sacks allowed	0	0	5	0	1	5	3	2	2	2	1	3	5	2	3	2	36
Had intercepted	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	16
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	7
Yards penalized	68	35	65	75	94	54	84	45	53	56	82	107	76	72	8	101	1075
Punts	5	5	7	6	5	8	6	7	5	2	4	4	6	6	3	3	82
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	23:35	27:36	26:57	36:39	39:03	29:39	34:57	30:26	29:06	26:53	29:12	24:54	28:46	31:33	27:39	31:40	29:54
Total net yards	315	267	321	434	359	314	328	312	216	409	349	438	425	477	367	550	5881
Rushing yards	56	151	132	113	122	203	129	195	109	137	53	100	269	132	68	81	2050
Passing yards	259	116	189	321	237	111	199	117	107	272	296	338	156	345	299	469	3831
Rushing plays	16	29	23	27	25	29	31	30	35	26	18	23	35	22	17	24	410
Sacks allowed	2	2	4	1	3	2	3	7	2	1	2	2	4	3	0	3	41
Had intercepted	1	3	0	3	0	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	3	0	2	1	21
Fumbles lost	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	13
Yards penalized	39	70	79	33	104	120	80	55	37	70	54	30	37	86	10	78	982
Punts	5	5	6	3	5	9	5	7	6	3	5	4	2	5	4	4	78

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Best	21-72-0	16-57-1	12-14-0	11-47-0	12-163-1	12-37-0											84-390-2
Burleson	1-20-0				2-4-0		2-10-0	1-9-0	1-10-0		1-11-0		1-1-0		1-11-0	1-9-0	11-85-0
J. Harrison	8-27-0	4-6-0	2-8-0														14-41-0
Logan	1-(-2)-0			1-3-0	1-6-0			1-1-0	1-5-0	1-(-2)-0		1-0-0		1-5-0		1-16-0	9-32-0
Morris	2-4-0		2-(-4)-0			5-20-0	9-50-0	13-58-1	10-44-0	7-29-0	7-39-0	12-28-0	4-13-0		5-22-0	4-13-0	80-316-1
K. Smith									4-19-0	16-140-2	7-36-0	6-34-1		15-43-0	15-49-1	9-35-0	72-356-4
Stafford	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-(-1)-0	1-(-1)-0	1-1-0	1-9-0		1-21-0	2-1-0	4-2-0	4-31-0		2-4-0	1-5-0	2-5-0		22-78-0
K. Williams		9-25-1	2-3-0	4-14-0	4-7-0		9-44-0	11-25-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	2-19-1	2-14-0	12-43-0	1-0-0			58-195-2

PASSING **

Stafford	24-33-1	23-39-1	32-46-0	21-43-1	19-26-1	28-50-0	15-32-0	21-30-0	33-63-4	28-36-2	32-45-3	31-44-1	20-29-0	29-52-0	29-36-0	36-59-2	421-663-16
	305-3	294-4	378-2	240-2	219-2	293-2	183-1	267-3	329-1	335-5	276-1	408-1	227-2	391-4	373-3	520-5	5038-41

RECEIVING

Best	4-42-0	6-66-1	5-74-0	2-23-0	4-9-0	6-73-0											27-287-1
Burleson	5-60-0	7-93-0	2-12-0	2-16-0	1-6-0	4-34-1	1-1-0	4-23-0	8-83-0	7-63-1	5-39-0	5-93-0	3-25-0	7-81-1	6-83-0	6-45-0	73-757-3
Heller		1-2-0			1-1-0	1-9-0	1-8-0			1-12-0		1-10-0					6-42-0
C. Johnson	6-88-2	3-29-2	7-108-2	8-96-2	5-130-1	7-113-0	5-115-1	6-125-1	7-81-0	5-89-0	4-49-1	6-69-0	3-29-0	9-214-2	4-102-1	11-244-1	96-1681-16
Morris	2-25-0		1-14-0		1-8-0	1-8-0	2-13-0	1-7-0	1-6-0	1-8-0	9-81-0	5-47-1	1-3-0		1-10-0		26-230-1
Pettigrew	4-57-0	1-7-0	11-112-0	6-64-0	4-39-1	8-42-1	4-31-0	3-8-0	5-38-0	4-37-1	4-27-0	2-13-0	6-57-1	5-49-0	9-80-1	7-116-0	83-777-5
Scheffler	1-11-1	1-36-1	1-4-0		1-12-0		2-15-0	3-38-1	3-37-1	2-24-1	2-13-0	2-41-0		1-4-0	3-47-0	4-65-1	26-347-6
K. Smith									2-10-0	4-61-1	3-21-0	6-46-0		1-3-0	2-12-1	4-26-1	22-179-3
K. Williams								1-5-0			4-33-0	1-7-0	2-17-0				8-62-0
T. Young		5-89-0	4-51-0	3-41-0	2-14-0	1-14-0		4-66-1	7-74-0	2-14-1	1-13-0	2-60-0	4-87-1	5-21-1	4-39-0	4-24-2	48-607-6

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2011 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Riley Reiff	OLT-OG	Iowa	23
2	Ryan Broyles	WR	Oklahoma	54
3	Dwight "Bill" Bentley	CB	Louisiana-Lafayette	85
4	Ronnell Lewis	DE	Oklahoma	125
5	Tahir Whitehead	OLB	Temple	138
5	Chris Greenwood	CB	Albion (Mich.)	148
6	Jonte Green	CB	New Mexico State	196
7	Travis Lewis	LB	Oklahoma	223

R. REIFF

that comes at the opposition in waves. When the Lions are winning up front, it can make the entire defense better.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DT Ndamukong Suh's reputation lost some luster in 2011. His production sharply declined, and he was suspended for two games after stomping on Packers OL Evan Dietrich-Smith in the Thanksgiving Day loss to Green Bay. Just two seasons removed from a 66-tackle, 10-sack campaign, the 25-year-old Suh has the ability to return to top form. Athletic and powerful, his rare gifts are evident, but he was held in check and off the stat sheet more than you would have expected a season ago. The Lions' other starting defensive tackle, Corey Williams, is quick, big and powerful — a steady starter. DLE Cliff Avril is the Lions' best edge rusher. He has an explosive first step and can turn the corner quickly. He has long arms, a knack for forcing fumbles (14 in four NFL seasons) and a playmaking flair that separates ordinary ends from good ones. However, opponents ran toward his side with success a season ago. DRE Kyle Vanden Bosch's motor is the stuff of legend, and he's still a solid pass-rush threat and a tone-setter. Athletic Lawrence Jackson and fast, lean and long Willie Young provide depth at end, as does rookie Ronnell Lewis, who has a good edge burst. DT Nick Fairley could vie for a bigger role after being limited by a foot injury in his first NFL season. He flashed major promise, particularly early in the regular-season loss to New Orleans, when he played well against strong competition. His durability is a concern, however, and he was arrested in April on a marijuana charge. Sammie Lee Hill and Andre Fluellen add further depth up the middle.

LINEBACKERS

MLB Stephen Tulloch was a strong addition to the defense in 2011, notching 111 tackles in his first season in Detroit. In March, the Lions signed him to a new five-year contract. "There's a difference between a guy that can go do his job and a guy that can do maybe a little bit more than his job — and Stephen has been that guy," Lions head coach Jim Schwartz said of his middle linebacker. Tulloch is smart, quick and tough. He showed a good deal of versatility and set career highs in sacks (three) and interceptions (two). Likewise, SLB Justin Durant also was a solid addition to the LB corps. Durant, who has good speed, missed three games in October with a concussion but came back to finish the season strongly. Quick WLB DeAndre Levy notched a career-best 109 tackles in 2011; he also can play in the middle. Second-year pro Doug Hogue provides depth at outside linebacker. Hogue is fast and athletic but undersized. Rookies Tahir Whitehead and Travis Lewis also will contend for backup OLB spots. Ashlee Palmer, another speedy 'backer, will vie for a reserve role inside.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The secondary struggled mightily late in the season. One contributing factor was the knee injury to FS Louis Delmas, who missed the final five games of the regular season. General manager Martin Mayhew has called Delmas a "vacuum cleaner" because of his propensity to "(clean) up other people's mistakes." A Pro Bowl alternate in 2011, Delmas is fast and physical, but his durability must be watched; he has yet to play a full, 16-game regular season. SS Amari Spievey, a converted cornerback, runs well but must improve his tackling. Chris Houston, who intercepted a career-best five

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	13 BURLESON	16	T. Young	84 Broyles*
OLT	76 BACKUS	71	Reiff*	70 Fox
OLG	67 SIMS	65	Gandy	
C	51 RAIOLA	64	Gerberry	
ORG	66 PETERMAN	65	Gandy	
ORT	77 CHERILUS	71	Reiff*	78 Hillard
TE	87 PETTIGREW	89	Heller	
WR	81 JOHNSON	16	T. Young	11 Logan
QB	9 STAFFORD	14	Sh. Hill	
RB	44 BEST	30	K. Smith	25 Leshoure
TE	85 SCHEFFLER			
DEFENSE				
DLE	92 AVRIL	94	Jackson	
DT	90 SUH	98	Fairley	
DT	99 C. WILLIAMS	91	Sa. Hill	96 Fluellen
DRE	93 VANDEN BOSCH	79	W. Young	97 R. Lewis*
OLB	52 DURANT	57	Hogue	50 T. Lewis*
MLB	55 TULLOCH	54	Levy	58 Palmer
OLB	54 LEVY	59	Whitehead*	57 Hogue
LCB	23 HOUSTON	33	Greenwood*	27 A. Smith
RCB	32 BERRY	28	Bentley*	21 Lacey
SS	42 SPIEVEY	24	Coleman	39 Silva
FS	26 DELMAS	29	Wendling	
SPECIALISTS				
P	2 GRAHAM	6	Donahue	
PK	4 HANSON			
H	2 GRAHAM			
PR	11 LOGAN	13	Burleson	
KR	11 LOGAN			
LS	48 MUHLBACH			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Jason Arapoff, coordinator of physical development; Bradford Banta, asst. special teams; Matt Burke, linebackers; Danny Crossman, special teams; Todd Downing, quarterbacks; Sam Gash, running backs; Gunther Cunningham, defensive coordinator; Shawn Jefferson, wide receivers; Kris Kocurek, defensive line; Tim Lappano, tight ends; Scott Linehan, offensive coordinator; Ted Rath, strength and conditioning asst.; Marcus Robertson, defensive assistant/secondary; Kyle Valero, offensive assistant; Tim Walton, secondary/third-down package; Jeremiah Washburn, asst. offensive line; George Yarno, offensive line.

passes in 2011, is one starter at cornerback. Houston runs well and closes quickly but needs to be more of a sure tackler. The other starting CB spot is open. Quick but small Aaron Berry could get a shot at the job, and third-round pick Dwight "Bill" Bentley may also have a chance to earn it. Bentley is fast and fluid but lacks strength and size. Jacob Lacey, Alphonso Smith and Don Carey are other veteran options at corner, and the Lions also added Chris Greenwood and Jonte Green in the draft. Lacey, who wasn't tendered as an RFA by Indianapolis, has 27 career starts. Smith is prone to all-in gambles. Carey can play safety and corner. Greenwood and Green have talent to be molded. Veteran Erik Coleman is another option at safety, as is key special-teamer John Wendling.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jason Hanson enters his third decade as the Lions' placekicker. Hanson has been remarkably accurate on field goals inside of 40 yards in his long career, connecting on 95 percent of those attempts (293-of-308). And he still can drill longer field goals, too. He connected on 5-of-7 attempts from 50 yards and beyond last season. What's more, he recorded 45 touchbacks in 96 kickoffs. Ryan Donahue and Ben Graham are likely to compete for the punting job. Graham fared relatively well in seven games in place of the injured Donahue last season. RS Stefan Logan is quick but wasn't as productive in 2011 as he was the previous season, and he also fumbled six times in 70 combined returns. The coverage units were not a strength last season, struggling on punts and kickoffs and allowing a pair of return TDs.

SUMMARY

The Lions are loaded with young talent, and they are well-suited to compete in the 21st-century NFL. This is an exciting team, but it is still developing, and it will probably have to improve to go back to the postseason. The best is likely yet to come for this team no matter what happens in 2012.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
92	Avril, Cliff	DE	6-3	260	5	Purdue	16/16
76	Backus, Jeff	OT	6-5	305	12	Michigan	16/16
35	Bell, Joique	RB	5-11	220	2	Wayne State (Mich.)	0/0
28	Bentley, Dwight "Bill"	CB	5-10	176	R	Louisiana-Lafayette	
32	Berry, Aaron	CB	5-11	180	3	Pittsburgh	11/3
44	Best, Jahvid	RB	5-10	199	3	California	6/6
95	Brown, Everette	DE	6-1	256	3	Florida State	3/0
84	Broyles, Ryan	WR	5-10	188	R	Oklahoma	
40	Bryant, James	FB	6-3	257	1	Louisville	0/0
13	Burleson, Nate	WR	6-0	198	10	Nevada	16/11
31	Carey, Don	DB	5-11	192	4	Norfolk State	5/0
77	Cherilus, Gosder	OT	6-7	325	5	Boston College	16/15
69	Chinasa, Ugo	DE	6-5	252	1	Oklahoma State	0/0
24	Coleman, Erik	S	5-10	207	9	Washington State	4/0
72	Culbreath, Johnny	OT	6-5	322	2	South Carolina State	0/0
26	Delmas, Louis	S	5-11	202	4	Western Michigan	11/11
6	Donahue, Ryan	P	6-3	190	2	Iowa	8/0
52	Durant, Justin	LB	6-1	240	6	Hampton	13/12
98	Fairley, Nick	DT	6-4	298	2	Auburn	10/0
96	Fluellen, Andre	DT	6-2	302	5	Florida State	13/0
70	Fox, Jason	OT	6-6	314	3	Miami (Fla.)	0/0
65	Gandy, Dylan	C	6-3	295	7	Texas Tech	16/0
64	Gerberry, Dan	C	6-3	302	1	Ball State	0/0
2	Graham, Ben	P	6-5	236	8	Deakin (Australia)	7/0
36	Green, Jonte	CB	6-0	184	R	New Mexico State	
33	Greenwood, Chris	CB	6-1	193	R	Albion (Mich.)	
4	Hanson, Jason	PK	6-0	190	21	Washington State	16/0
10	Harris, Marcus	WR	6-1	185	1	Murray State	0/0
36	Harrison, Jerome	RB	5-9	205	7	Washington State	4/0
89	Heller, Will	TE	6-6	275	10	Georgia Tech	16/6
91	Hill, Sammie	DT	6-4	329	4	Stillman (Ala.)	16/3
14	Hill, Shaun	QB	6-3	220	11	Maryland	2/0
78	Hilliard, Corey	OT	6-6	300	4	Oklahoma State	16/1
57	Hogue, Doug	LB	6-2	226	2	Syracuse	13/0
23	Houston, Chris	CB	5-11	178	6	Arkansas	14/13
86	Hughes, Nate	WR	6-2	195	3	Alcorn State	0/0
94	Jackson, Lawrence	DE	6-4	271	5	USC	11/0
81	Johnson, Calvin	WR	6-5	236	6	Georgia Tech	16/16
21	Lacey, Jacob	CB	5-10	177	4	Oklahoma State	15/10
25	Leshoure, Mikel	RB	6-0	233	2	Illinois	0/0
54	Levy, DeAndre	LB	6-2	238	4	Wisconsin	16/16
97	Lewis, Ronnell	DE	6-2	253	R	Oklahoma	
50	Lewis, Travis	LB	6-2	222	R	Oklahoma	
11	Logan, Stefan	WR	5-6	180	4	South Dakota	16/1
80	Long, Lance	WR	5-11	186	2	Mississippi State	0/0
63	McClendon, Jacques	OG	6-3	324	2	Tennessee	0/0
48	Muhlbach, Don	LS	6-4	265	9	Texas A&M	16/0
49	Norris, Slade	LB	6-2	232	2	Oregon State	0/0
46	Overbay, Nathan	TE	6-5	270	1	Eastern Washington	0/0
58	Palmer, Ashlee	LB	6-1	236	3	Mississippi	16/0
66	Peterman, Stephen	OG	6-4	323	8	LSU	16/16
87	Pettigrew, Brandon	TE	6-5	265	4	Oklahoma State	16/16
51	Raiola, Dominic	C	6-1	295	12	Nebraska	16/16
71	Reiff, Riley	OT	6-6	313	R	Iowa	
85	Scheffler, Tony	TE	6-5	255	7	Western Michigan	15/5
39	Silva, Ricardo	S	6-3	225	1	Hampton	4/0
67	Sims, Rob	OG	6-3	312	7	Ohio State	16/16
27	Smith, Alphonso	CB	5-9	190	4	Wake Forest	11/1
30	Smith, Kevin	RB	6-1	217	5	UCF	7/4
42	Spievey, Amari	S	5-11	195	3	Iowa	15/15
9	Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-3	232	4	Georgia	16/16
90	Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	307	3	Nebraska	14/14
19	Toliver, Terrence	WR	6-5	204	1	LSU	0/0
55	Tulloch, Stephen	LB	5-11	240	7	North Carolina State	16/16
93	Vanden Bosch, Kyle	DE	6-4	278	12	Nebraska	16/16
38	Weaver, Ross	DB	6-1	203	1	Michigan State	0/0
29	Wendling, John	S	6-1	222	6	Wyoming	16/1
59	Whitehead, Tahir	LB	6-2	228	R	Temple	
99	Williams, Corey	DT	6-4	320	9	Arkansas State	15/15
34	Williams, Keiland	RB	5-11	230	3	LSU	15/0
16	Young, Titus	WR	5-11	174	2	Boise State	16/9
79	Young, Willie	DE	6-4	251	3	North Carolina State	14/0

4 MINNESOTA Vikings

2012 PREDICTION: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*
2011 RECORD: 3-13 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC NORTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

L. FRAZIER

HEAD COACH: Leslie Frazier
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Musgrave
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Alan Williams
OWNER: Zygi Wilf
STADIUM: Metrodome | **CAPACITY:** 80,242
PLAYING SURFACE: Field Turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.vikings.com

The Vikings are coming off the worst season in their 51-year history, and yet many things remain the same. Head coach Leslie Frazier returns with something to prove, Rick Spielman was promoted to the title of general manager, and QB Christian Ponder should get a full crack at running this team and guiding it back to respectability.

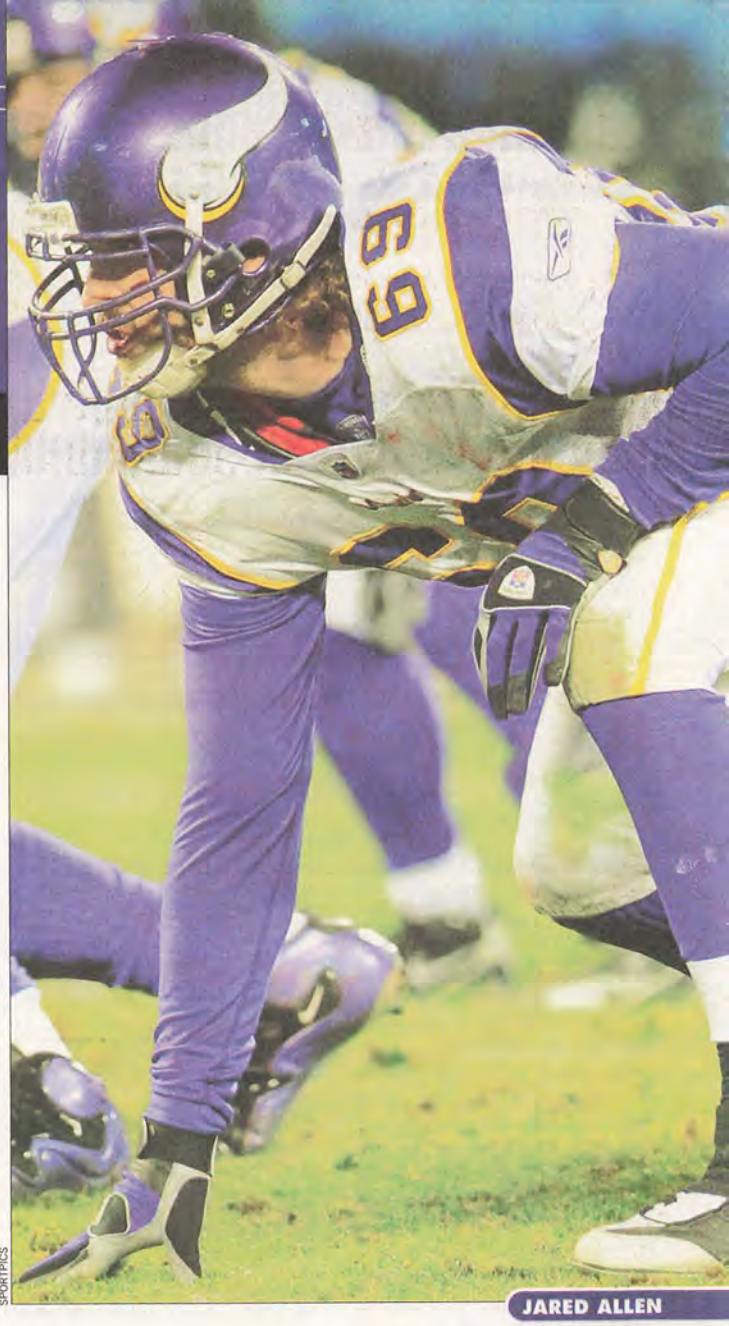
But they'll be doing so in a division that took a large step forward with the Packers rolling to a 15-1 regular-season record, the Lions making the postseason for the first time since 1999 and the Bears remaining a viable force until they lost their top two offensive players.

There are major concerns on both sides of the ball for the Vikings, who enter the season with questions about the health of their best offensive player, Adrian Peterson. The bruising, electric tailback suffered a torn ACL and MCL in his left knee, leaving the start of his season in doubt.

Ponder also must make strides. He appeared to regress the more time he had as a rookie. But they solidified left tackle with first-round pick Matt Kalil and added underrated offensive pieces in WR Jerome Simpson and TE John Carlson.

On defense, DE Jared Allen turned in a monster season (22 sacks, approaching the all-time mark), but he was left to do the heavy lifting himself too often. A rebuilt back seven must show far more cohesion and execution to compensate.

The Vikings have holes, but expect better competitiveness — even in the brutal NFC North.


SPORTPICS
JARED ALLEN

OFFENSE

Coordinator Bill Musgrave's unit was set back by the lockout in his first season, as the team struggled to find solutions at quarterback, receiver and on the offensive line. Turnovers and sacks allowed were too high, so Musgrave must put a premium on playing better ball control with his short, rhythm passing game and power-rushing attack. But he also must find more explosive plays. Adrian Peterson's knee injury, a still-developing Christian Ponder and a lack of established playmakers elsewhere temper the potential.

QUARTERBACKS

Christian Ponder probably would have started Week One had there been a full offseason, as it was obvious that Donovan McNabb was past his prime and that Joe Webb remains something of a one-trick pony, albeit a dangerous one. But Ponder has much to prove. He showed toughness fighting through a hip injury and suffering a concussion in 10 starts, but it was disturbing to see him take steps backward the more he played. Too often, he came off his spots and left the pocket if his first or second options were covered. Having better protection, more receiving options and more time in the system should help. He's athletic, has the requisite arm strength and can throw well on the move. He also was effective in the red zone — a big plus. But Ponder must make fewer mistakes and show more consistency. Webb will be used in a variety of roles under

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
CB Zack Bowman, TE John Carlson, WR Jerome Simpson.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
NT Remi Ayodele, CB Cedric Griffin, LB E.J. Henderson, OG Anthony Herrera, TE Jim Kleinsasser, PK Ryan Longwell, TE Visanthe Shiancoe.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Adrian Peterson

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE Jared Allen

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
TE Kyle Rudolph

POSITION BATTLE
SS: Jamarca Sanford vs. the field

A. PETERSON

J. ALLEN

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
D	B+	C	C	C+	D+	C+	C-

center but less as a receiver. His terrific open-field running skills and rudimentary passing make him more a trick-play specialist and less of a true backup. The offense completely changes with him under center. Sage Rosenfels, more of a classic pocket passer, would likely be the option to play if Ponder gets hurt.

RUNNING BACKS

Prior to ankle and knee injuries, Adrian Peterson was his same rollicking self, averaging more than 100 yards from scrimmage and a TD per game. But the physical toll he has taken can't be understated, and few backs get back to top form less than a year removed from ACL surgery. When healthy, he's the game's best interior tackle breaker and has done a great job curbing his fumbling, which was a problem early in his career. Peterson also has improved in pass protection, but his primary job is to power through defenses, even when he regularly faces eight-man fronts. Backup Toby Gerhart — the man who would see the lion's share of carries if Peterson is out — stepped up in his second season. Gerhart lacks Peterson's explosion and breakaway speed and is best when he can run up to speed, and he won't burn by anyone. But he's solid inside and can catch defenses off guard. Jordan Todman and Lex Hilliard will battle for the No. 3 RB spot, and Todman's speed might give him the edge. Jerome Felton likely will beat out Ryan D'Imperio for FB duties in what figures to be a part-time role.

RECEIVERS

The Vikings badly needed a vertical threat, so they signed ex-Bengal Jerome Simpson. He's facing a three-game suspension to start the season but should be able to tilt the field. He's acrobatic but also inconsistent and not very physical. Slot WR Percy Harvin is dangerous in space and can wiggle through cracks or use his underrated power to take on bigger DBs. Too often, though, he was bottled up because of the lack of weapons elsewhere. Still, he must be accounted for — as a receiver, runner (52 rushes for 345 yards) and returner. Entering a contract season with more help around him, Harvin could be in line for a big campaign. Michael Jenkins catches what he should and can get open against zones. But he's not fast or sudden, can't get free against man coverage and earns limited yards after the catch. Devin Aromashodu was maddeningly inconsistent, offering bursts of playmaking but also displaying terrible hands. He must be far more consistent to guarantee a role. Rookies Jarius Wright and Greg Childs enter the mix. The speedy Wright is insurance in the slot for Harvin, and Childs is a big, outside-the-numbers receiver. Look for more two-TE formations with second-year Kyle Rudolph and John Carlson. Rudolph doesn't have great separation but has excellent hands and a huge catching radius. His blocking is subpar, but Rudolph could be a dangerous seam and red-zone weapon. Carlson's blocking has been strong, especially in the run game, but his receiving production has dropped off. He's good at sitting down in zones and could be a nice security blanket for Christian Ponder. Rookie Rhett Ellison is poised to take on the dirty-work role that opened up with the retirement of Jim Kleinsasser.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

C John Sullivan was an anchor in his best pro season. Massive nose tackles once overpowered him, but improved technique, better health and more aggressiveness helped. After giving him a five-year extension, the Vikings view Sullivan as their leader up front. First-round pick Matt Kalil might improve two positions, as he mans left tackle and Charlie Johnson kicks inside to left guard. Kalil has the size, length, foot quickness and pedigree to be a star. Johnson was game at left tackle, but his short arms were a detriment. At guard, some of his shortcomings can be covered up. Geoff Schwartz, a tough man blocker who played for OL coach Jeff Davidson in Carolina, could start at right guard. Schwartz has a nasty streak and is younger and cheaper than Anthony Herrera, who was released. ORT Phil Loadholt has been defined by inconsistency. Dominant one game, passive and ineffective the next, he can be frustrating to watch. Loadholt has the reach, power and drive-blocking ability to be a force. But he takes too many penalties (10 last season), loses leverage and can be whipped one-on-one by edge rushers. He's entering a pivotal season with his rookie contract expiring and must show he can be the long-term solution outside. Joe Berger can play all three interior spots and is valuable. Young OLs Brandon Fusco and DeMarcus Love are other top backups.

DEFENSE

Expect more philosophical cohesion as new coordinator Alan Williams fits more closely with what Leslie Frazier has wanted to run — a zone-heavy scheme relying heavily on front-four pressure and only occasional blitzing. They will mix in cover-3 and fire zones, but this is primarily a Tampa-2 defense. The secondary must improve, and better health should prevent the shocking number of blown coverages. The D-line, led by Jared Allen, is good but no longer the dominant unit of yore. The defense must create more turnovers and improve third-down and red-zone execution.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jared Allen had a tremendous season and remains a force as he turns

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Jacksonville	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Indianapolis	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	San Francisco	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Tennessee	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Washington	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 21	Arizona	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	Tampa Bay	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Seattle	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 11	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	BYE	
Nov. 25	at Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at St. Louis	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Houston	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Green Bay	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Minnesota

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At San Diego	(+9.5)	17-24
Sept. 18	Tampa Bay	(-1)	20-24
Sept. 25	Detroit	(+3)	23-26*
Oct. 2	At Kansas City	(-3)	17-22
Oct. 9	Arizona	(-3.5)	34-10
Oct. 16	At Chicago	(+2.5)	10-39
Oct. 23	Green Bay	(+10)	27-33
Oct. 30	At Carolina	(+3)	24-21
Nov. 6	BYE		
Nov. 14	At Green Bay	(+13)	7-45
Nov. 20	Oakland	(-2.5)	21-27
Nov. 27	At Atlanta	(+10)	14-24
Dec. 4	Denver	(-1)	32-35
Dec. 11	At Detroit	(+10)	28-34
Dec. 18	New Orleans	(+7)	20-42
Dec. 24	At Washington	(+6)	33-26
Jan. 1	Chicago	(-2.5)	13-17

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@S.D.**	**T.B.**	**DET.**	**@K.C.**	**ARIZ.**	**@CHI.**	**G.B.**	**@CAR.**	**@G.B.**	**OAK.**	**@ATL.**	**DEN.**	**@DET.**	**N.O.**	**@WASH.**	**CHI.**	
Score	17-24	20-24	23-26	17-22	34-10	10-39	27-33	24-21	7-45	21-27	14-24	32-35	28-34	20-42	33-26	13-17	
Total net yards	187	398	321	341	332	286	435	361	266	311	226	489	425	207	389	301	5275
Rushing yards	159	186	132	151	172	53	218	132	104	124	64	129	269	105	241	79	2318
Passing yards	28	212	189	190	160	233	217	229	162	187	162	360	156	102	148	222	2957
Rushing plays	26	33	23	30	37	17	31	33	22	24	24	30	35	18	38	27	448
Sacks allowed	2	2	4	2	1	5	2	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	2	2	49
Had intercepted	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	2	3	1	0	3	17
Fumbles lost	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	9
Yards penalized	78	65	79	45	35	40	91	43	80	50	49	54	37	84	40	38	908
Punts	6	4	6	4	4	5	4	4	6	3	7	6	2	7	3	6	77
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	37:17	26:30	33:03	27:50	31:01	30:40	32:06	27:55	33:18	35:44	34:39	22:09	31:14	38:49	30:26	28:46	31:21
Total net yards	407	335	358	350	291	377	421	405	356	301	335	336	280	573	397	209	5731
Rushing yards	77	105	20	103	77	119	114	140	90	162	89	150	72	161	141	92	1712
Passing yards	330	230	338	247	214	258	307	265	266	139	246	186	208	412	256	117	4019
Rushing plays	27	19	19	28	24	28	26	27	31	41	29	32	21	38	24	25	439
Sacks allowed	2	2	5	3	4	1	4	3	3	4	2	2	5	0	3	7	50
Had intercepted	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	15
Yards penalized	26	53	65	57	64	15	44	60	5	117	30	73	76	65	64	20	834
Punts	3	4	7	3	5	3	3	4	2	6	5	6	6	1	2	7	67

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Gerhart	2-16-0	2-36-0	2-2-0	2-4-0	2-9-0	1-3-0	1-4-0	5-26-0		7-18-0	17-44-1	21-91-0	19-90-0	2-12-0	11-109-0	15-67-0	109-531-1
Harvin	4-15-0	2-18-0	2-41-0	4-67-0	1-12-0	1-5-0	2-8-0	4-19-1	3-18-0	5-21-0	5-11-0	5-19-0	4-40-0	1-(-1)-0	4-39-0	5-13-1	52-345-2
McNabb	3-32-0	4-12-0	2-11-0	1-0-0	4-4-1												14-59-1
Peterson	16-98-0	25-120-2	17-78-1	23-80-0	29-122-3	12-39-1	24-175-1	20-83-1	14-51-1	6-26-1				10-60-0	12-38-1		208-970-12
Ponder						1-8-0	4-31-0	4-4-0	2-17-0	5-71-0	2-9-0	1-12-0	2-13-0	3-34-0	4-20-0		28-219-0
Webb	1-(-2)-0					1-1-0			1-6-0			1-4-0	7-109-1	2-0-0	5-34-1	4-2-0	22-154-2

PASSING **

McNabb	7-15-1 39-1	18-30-0 228-0	22-36-0 211-1	18-30-1 202-2	10-21-0 169-0	19-24-0 177-0											94-156-2 1026-4
Ponder						9-17-0 99-0	13-32-2 219-2	18-28-0 236-1	16-34-1 190-0	19-33-3 211-2	17-25-0 186-1	29-47-2 381-3	11-21-3 115-2	14-31-1 120-2	8-13-0 68-0	4-10-1 28-0	158-291-13 1853-13
Webb						0-1-0 0-0						1-1-0 8-0	12-23-0 84-1	0-1-0 0-0	4-5-0 84-2	17-32-2 200-0	34-63-2 376-3

RECEIVING

Aromashodu			1-5-0	1-34-1	2-81-0		1-13-0	2-20-0		1-42-0	1-18-0	6-90-0	4-47-0	2-29-0	2-36-0	3-53-0	26-468-1
Camarillo						1-23-0	2-35-0			1-4-0			2-31-0	1-5-0	1-14-0	1-9-0	9-121-0
Gerhart		1-42-0	1-5-0			2-7-0				1-7-0	2-19-0	8-42-0	3-19-1	4-46-2		1-3-0	23-190-3
Harvin	2-7-0	7-76-0	3-47-0	5-42-0	1-11-0	7-78-0	2-15-0	4-58-0	6-52-0	6-73-1	8-95-1	8-156-2	10-69-1	3-8-0	5-65-1	10-115-0	87-967-6
Jenkins	3-26-1	3-29-0	9-88-0	1-1-1	4-32-0	4-45-0	3-111-1	2-30-0	3-49-0	4-30-0	2-25-0						38-466-3
Peterson	2-6-0	2-21-0	4-19-0	1-3-0		1-0-0	1-0-0	5-76-1							2-14-0		18-139-1
Rudolph		1-15-0	3-39-0	3-44-0		2-20-0		2-15-0	3-37-0	3-7-1		1-19-1	1-0-0	2-15-0	2-23-1	3-15-0	26-249-3
Shiancoe		3-28-0	1-8-1	6-58-0	1-20-0	5-45-0	4-45-1	3-37-0	1-33-0	2-42-0	3-24-0	4-36-0	3-33-1				36-409-3

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

30. His motor is nonstop, and what he lacks in pass-rush versatility he makes up for in will and determination. Some of his big plays come in garbage time, but he never comes off the field, fights through tandem blocking and makes explosive plays in the backfield. Allen also is the heartbeat of this defense, often letting his emotions spill over onto the sideline for better or worse. DLE Brian Robison had a good season overall as a first-time starter. He wore down around midseason after a strong start but picked back up with a nice finish. He's a bit light for the strong side but has a great spin move and can disrupt. There might be more snaps for Everson Griffen, who made splash plays in limited reps on defense. He can rush the passer, often stood up and could be valuable if he continues to grow. DT Kevin Williams isn't the inside penetrator he was a few years ago, but he still can knife into the backfield, wreck blocking schemes and perform solidly vs. the run. He was beset by lower-body injuries and was hurt by poor play from the nose tackles. Letroy Guion could start next to Williams despite lacking a prototypical NT frame. He relies on quickness and has shown spunk in passing situations but is a target for opponents in the power run game. Second-year DT Christian Ballard must show more development to see increased snaps, but he might be pushed by seventh-round workhorse Trevor Guyton, a strong, intense competitor.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Matt Kalil	OLT	USC	4
1	Harrison Smith	FS	Notre Dame	29
3	Josh Robinson	CB	UCF	66
4	Jarius Wright	WR	Arkansas	118
4	Rhett Ellison	TE	USC	128
4	Greg Childs	WR	Arkansas	134
5	Robert Blanton	CB	Notre Dame	139
6	Blair Walsh	PK	Georgia	175
7	Audie Cole	SLB	North Carolina State	210
7	Trevor Guyton	DE-DT	California	219

M. KALIL

LINEBACKERS

The team's best linebacker in 2011 was Erin Henderson and not his brother, E.J., who was allowed to walk this offseason. Erin is a solid two-down weak-side option, and he could shift inside in the nickel. Henderson guesses wrong at times but has good playmaking DNA and is solid against the run and pass. SLB Chad Greenway is not coming off his best season, but his skills might better fit in this revised scheme. He's not a stack-and-shed linebacker, but rather a read-and-flow hitter and playmaker whose low interception totals don't show his pass instincts and awareness. Expect a bounce-back season. Jasper Brinkley, who lost last season after hip surgery, is the likely two-down replacement inside. Brinkley can be turned around in coverage but is a heavy hitter with some grit. Don't overlook rookie Audie Cole, who has the smarts and toughness to be a key backup. The rest of the reserves are primarily special-teamers.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

This unit was plagued by bad assignment football, injuries and spare parts playing major snaps. LCB Antoine Winfield missed time with neck and collarbone injuries but is slated to start despite turning 35 in June. He's not the run defender he once was and won't get his hands on a lot of passes, but Winfield is smart, dependable and heady when healthy. RCB Chris Cook could be a star. Cleared of domestic abuse charges in the spring, he can return to the field, where his long frame, fluid hips and press-coverage ability are assets. Cook defended Lions WR Calvin Johnson well last season and will be asked to lock down the biggest and best wideouts. Husain Abdullah might not return because of repeated concussions, and first-rounder Harrison Smith has the inside track on the FS job. He's heady, instinctive, athletic and tough, even if he's not a natural playmaker or huge hitter. Jamarca Sanford might get the first chance to start at strong safety but is replaceable — even with no one currently on the roster to replace him — and should stick

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	**81 SIMPSON**	84 Jenkins	85 Childs*	
OLT	**75 KALIL***	73 Love		
OLG	**74 JOHNSON**	61 Berger		
C	**65 SULLIVAN**	63 Fusco		
ORG	**76 SCHWARTZ**	72 DeGeare		
ORT	**71 LOADHOLT**	79 Brown		
TE	**82 RUDOLPH**	89 Carlson	40 Ellison*	
WR	**12 HARVIN**	1 Wright*	19 Aromashodu	
QB	**7 PONDER**	18 Rosenfels	14 Webb	
RB	**28 PETERSON**	32 Gerhart	29 Todman	
FB	**42 FELTON**	44 D'Imperio		
DEFENSE				
DLE	**96 ROBISON**	97 Griffen		
NT	**98 GUION**	90 Evans		
DT	**93 WILLIAMS**	99 Ballard	92 Guyton*	
DRE	**69 J. ALLEN**	91 Reed		
WLB	**50 HENDERSON**	51 Dean		
MLB	**54 BRINKLEY**	57 Cole*	59 McKenzie	
SLB	**52 GREENWAY**	57 Cole*	50 Mitchell	
LCB	**26 WINFIELD**	25 Carr	31 Robinson*	
RCB	**20 COOK**	24 Bowman	21 A. Allen	
SS	**33 SANFORD**	37 Frampton		
FS	**22 SMITH***	41 Raymond	36 Blanton*	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**5 KLUWE**			
PK	**3 WALSH***			
H	**5 KLUWE**	18 Rosenfels		
PR	**1 WRIGHT***	35 Sherels	31 Robinson*	
KR	**12 HARVIN**	35 Sherels	1 Wright*	
LS	**46 LOEFFLER**	69 J. Allen		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Brendan Daly; defensive line; Jeff Davidson; offensive line; Ryan Ficken, asst. wide receivers; Jeff Imamura; defensive assistant, linebackers; Craig Johnson; quarterbacks; Jimmie Johnson; tight ends; Tom Kanavy; strength and conditioning; Bill Musgrave, offensive coordinator; Fred Pagac, linebackers; Mike Priefer, special teams; Diron Reynolds, asst. defensive line; James Saxon, running backs; Ryan Silverfield, asst. offensive line; Mike Singletary, special assistant to head coach/linebackers; Kevin Stefanski, asst. quarterbacks; George Stewart, wide receivers; Martin Streight, asst. strength and conditioning; Cameron Turner, assistant to head coach; Alan Williams, defensive coordinator; Chris White, asst. special teams; Joe Woods, defensive backs.

to special teams. His size and poor coverage skills make him vulnerable. Mistral Raymond must become less timid and improve his stamina if he wants a role as a third safety. There finally is deph at corner with vets Zack Bowman and Chris Carr and rookie Josh Robinson. Bowman is big and solid in zones if he can stay healthy; Carr has return ability and also can play nickel. And Robinson has explosive athletic ability but must get stronger. Fellow rookie Robert Blanton has positional flexibility at corner and safety. Marcus Sherels must make the team for his special-teams prowess.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The kicking game wasn't as stout as it had been. P Chris Kluwe took a step back from his fantastic 2010 season but has decent pop and hang time. PK Ryan Longwell was cut after an inconsistent season and will be replaced by sixth-rounder Blair Walsh. Walsh struggled as a senior but had an otherwise brilliant college career. LS Cullen Loeffler is coming off back surgery but should be ready for training camp. The coaches want to limit Percy Harvin's KR reps but don't have a clear replacement. Rookie Jarius Wright is the first option on punts. The coverage was a mess, with injuries, poor game-planning and a slew of young players playing key roles on the units. These groups must tighten up quite a bit.

SUMMARY

The Vikings remain in flux, hitching their wagon to Christian Ponder. He has a chance to be good with new pieces around him on offense, but with Adrian Peterson's injury, there will be limitations. What could help dramatically is far better coverage on defense and special teams. If those two units are more dependable — and if the team at least can be on the positive side of the turnover battle — then the Vikings can play power football on offense, use field position to their advantage and keep games close. Optimism isn't exactly brimming, but there is a foundation to build upon.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
17	Adams, Kris	WR	6-3	194	1	Texas-El Paso	0/0
21	Allen, Asher	CB	5-9	194	4	Georgia	13/9
69	Allen, Jared	DE	6-6	270	9	Idaho State	16/16
16	Arceneaux, Emmanuel	WR	6-2	211	1	Alcorn State	3/0
19	Aromashodu, Devin	WR	6-2	201	5	Auburn	16/6
48	Asiata, Matt	FB	5-11	220	1	Utah	0/0
62	Baker, Chase	DT	6-1	298	R	Boise State	
99	Ballard, Christian	DT	6-4	283	2	Iowa	16/2
61	Berger, Joe	OL	6-5	315	8	Michigan Tech	13/7
4	Bethel-Thompson, McLeod	QB	6-4	230	1	Sacramento State	0/0
36	Blanton, Robert	S	6-1	200	R	Notre Dame	
24	Bowman, Zack	CB	6-1	196	5	Nebraska	16/1
54	Brinkley, Jasper	LB	6-1	252	4	South Carolina	0/0
79	Brown, Patrick	OT	6-5	310	3	UCF	15/0
36	Burton, Brandon	CB	5-11	190	2	Utah	10/1
11	Burton, Stephen	WR	6-1	221	2	West Texas A&M	3/0
89	Carlson, John	TE	6-5	251	5	Notre Dame	0/0
25	Carr, Chris	CB	5-10	182	8	Boise State	9/1
85	Childs, Greg	WR	6-3	217	R	Arkansas	
57	Cole, Audie	LB	6-5	239	R	North Carolina State	
49	Coleman, Derrick	RB	6-1	240	R	UCLA	
20	Cook, Chris	CB	6-2	212	3	Virginia	6/3
66	Cyrille, Kevin	DE	6-4	275	R	Florida Atlantic	
44	D'Imperio, Ryan	FB	6-2	241	3	Rutgers	12/1
51	Dean, Larry	LB	6-0	226	2	Valdosta State	16/0
72	DeGeare, Chris	OG	6-4	325	3	Wake Forest	0/0
59	Elimimian, Solomon	LB	6-0	227	1	Hawaii	0/0
40	Ellison, Rhett	TE	6-5	250	R	USC	
90	Evans, Fred	DT	6-4	305	7	Texas State	16/0
43	Felder, Bobby	CB	6-1	200	R	Nicholls State	
42	Felton, Jerome	FB	6-0	246	5	Furman	14/3
37	Frampton, Eric	S	5-11	205	6	Washington State	16/0
63	Fusco, Brandon	OL	6-4	306	2	Slippery Rock (Pa.)	3/0
32	Gerhart, Toby	RB	6-0	231	3	Stanford	16/5
52	Greenway, Chad	LB	6-2	242	7	Iowa	16/16
97	Griffen, Everson	DE	6-3	273	3	USC	16/0
98	Guion, Letroy	DT	6-4	303	5	Florida State	16/3
92	Guyton, Trevor	DE	6-3	280	R	California	
12	Harvin, Percy	WR	5-11	184	4	Florida	16/14
50	Henderson, Erin	LB	6-3	244	5	Maryland	16/11
38	Hilliard, Lex	RB	5-11	240	4	Montana	16/4
84	Jenkins, Michael	WR	6-4	214	9	Ohio State	11/7
74	Johnson, Charlie	OT	6-4	305	7	Oklahoma State	16/16
20	Jones, Reggie	DB	6-0	193	3	Portland State	0/0
2	Jorden, Kamar	WR	6-1	203	R	Bowling Green	
75	Kalil, Ryan	OT	6-7	295	R	USC	
5	Kluwe, Chris	P	6-4	215	8	UCLA	16/0
64	Latimore, Eric	DE	6-6	277	R	Penn State	
71	Loadholt, Phil	OT	6-8	343	4	Oklahoma	16/16
46	Loeffler, Cullen	LS	6-5	241	9	Texas	11/0
73	Love, DeMarcus	OT	6-4	315	2	Arkansas	0/0
59	McKenzie, Tyrone	OLB	6-2	245	3	South Florida	0/0
50	Mitchell, Marvin	LB	6-3	249	6	Tennessee	16/0
45	Nielsen, Tyler	LB	6-4	235	R	Iowa	
95	Owusu, Ernest	DE	6-5	270	R	California	
47	Paredes, Corey	LB	6-0	235	R	Hawaii	
67	Pasztor, Austin	OL	6-7	305	R	Virginia	
28	Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	217	6	Oklahoma	12/12
7	Ponder, Christian	QB	6-2	229	2	Florida State	11/10
60	Powell, Tydreke	DT	6-3	310	R	North Carolina	
41	Raymond, Mistral	S	6-1	202	2	South Florida	10/5
91	Reed, D'Aundre	DE	6-4	261	2	Arizona	0/0
83	Reisner, Allen	TE	6-3	248	2	Iowa	6/0
94	Resonno, Terrell	DT	6-5	295	R	Missouri	
31	Robinson, Josh	CB	5-10	199	R	UCF	
96	Robison, Brian	DE	6-3	259	6	Texas	16/16
18	Rosenfels, Sage	QB	6-4	222	12	Iowa State	0/0
82	Rudolph, Kyle	TE	6-6	259	2	Notre Dame	15/8
33	Sanford, Jamarca	S	5-10	200	4	Mississippi	15/15
60	Saulsberry, Quentin	C	6-2	300	R	Mississippi State	
76	Schwartz, Geoff	OG	6-6	331	4	Oregon	0/0
34	Sendejo, Andrew	S	6-1	225	1	Rice	3/0
35	Sherels, Marcus	CB	5-10	175	2	Minnesota	16/3
86	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-4	251	3	Penn State	0/0
81	Simpson, Jerome	WR	6-2	190	5	Coastal Carolina	16/14
22	Smith, Harrison	S	6-2	214	R	Notre Dame	
65	Sullivan, John	C	6-4	301	5	Notre Dame	15/15
15	Taylor, Kerry	WR	6-0	197	1	Arizona State	0/0
39	Taylor, Nicholas	DB	5-9	165	1	Florida International	0/0
29	Todman, Jordan	RB	5-9	193	2	Connecticut	0/0
78	Valdez, Jose	OL	6-6	324	1	Arkansas	0/0
3	Walsh, Blair	PK	5-10	192	R	Georgia	
13	Walters, Bryan	WR	6-0	190	3	Cornell	4/0
14	Webb, Joe	QB	6-4	220	3	UAB	10/1
68	Weems, Darrion	OT	6-5	302	R	Oregon	
30	Whitlock, C.C.	CB	5-10	178	R	South Carolina	
93	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-5	311	10	Oklahoma State	14/14
26	Winfield, Antoine	CB	5-9	180	14	Ohio State	5/5
1	Wright, Jarius	WR	5-10	180	R	Arkansas	

1 NEW ORLEANS Saints

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 13-3 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. VITT

HEAD COACH: Joe Vitt
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Pete Carmichael
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Steve Spagnuolo
OWNER: Tom Benson
STADIUM: Mercedes-Benz Louisiana Superdome | **CAPACITY:** 69,703
PLAYING SURFACE: Momentum Turf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.neworleanssaints.com

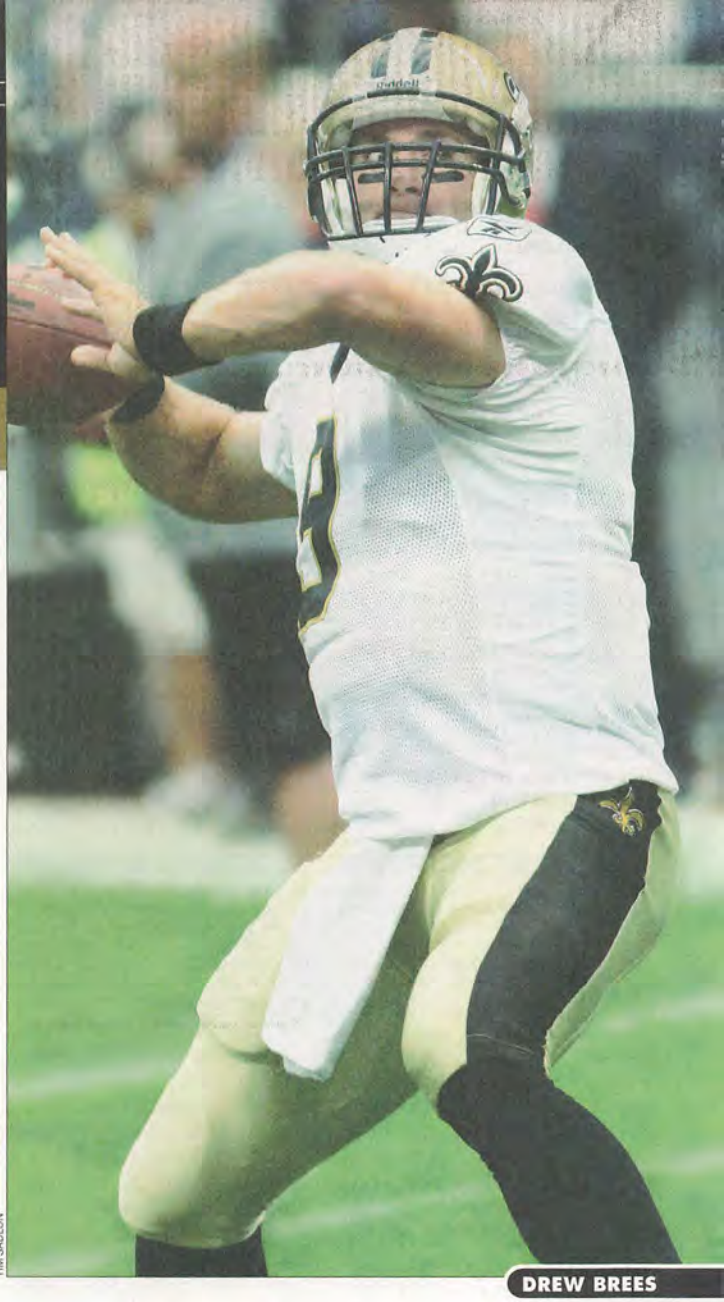
Weakened, but still among the league's most talented teams, the Saints are attempting to defend their NFC South title after being dealt a stiff punishment by commissioner Roger Goodell following the league's investigation into the pay-for-play program administered by former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams from 2009-11, which allegedly rewarded defensive players with payments for vicious hits resulting in cart-offs and knockouts.

Head coach Sean Payton and MLB Jonathan Vilma are suspended for the entire season, so New Orleans will be playing without the man who has helped lead the team to 37 regular-season wins since 2009 — tied with the Patriots for the most by an NFL team over that span — and Vilma, the quarterback of their defense for the past four seasons.

The Saints still want to do things Payton's way this year, though, and they signed a potential upgrade at middle linebacker in ex-Falcon Curtis Lofton. Owner Tom Benson and GM Mickey Loomis, who will serve an eight-game suspension to start the regular season, chose to have Payton's most trusted assistant, Joe Vitt, take on his duties.

The Saints will have another of their assistant coaches substitute for Vitt while he serves a six-game suspension during Weeks 1-6.

The Saints won't have to stretch to establish an "us vs. them" mentality this season. With that rallying cry and a highly capable collection of players in place, they can't be counted out.


TIM SADLON
DREW BREES

OFFENSE

Sean Payton and Drew Brees, the ringleaders of the Saints' West Coast-hybrid offense, began building a juggernaut when they arrived in 2006. New Orleans led the league in total yards in four of the six seasons since and set an NFL single-season record in 2011, racking up 7,474 yards. However, coordinator Pete Carmichael holds the keys to the offense this season with Payton serving his suspension. Carmichael has experience calling plays for the Saints — he did it for a significant chunk of last season — and Brees and Payton have great confidence in him. It's a chance for him to prove his mettle as the conductor of Payton's well-oiled offensive machine.

QUARTERBACKS

Coming off one of the most prolific seasons by a quarterback in league history, Drew Brees seems to just keep getting better, wiser, more comfortable and tougher for defenses to figure out how to stop. Brees became the first to break Dan Marino's 27-year-old record for passing yards in a single season, throwing for 5,476 yards, and Brees is the only quarterback in league history with two 5,000-yard seasons. He times his throws as well as anyone in the league and has an extremely quick release. Brees broke his own record for completion percentage in a season in 2011, connecting on 71.2 percent of his throws. He manipulates safeties with his eyes and has the quickness and agility to elude defenders

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

DT Brodrick Bunkley, OLB Chris Chamberlain, OG Ben Grubbs, OLB David Hawthorne, MLB Curtis Lofton.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

LB Jo-Lonn Dunbar, WR Robert Meachem, OG Carl Nicks, CB Tracy Porter, DT Shaun Rogers.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Drew Brees

DEFENSIVE MVP
FS Malcolm Jenkins

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
CB Patrick Robinson

POSITION BATTLE
ORT: Charles Brown vs. Zach Strief

D. BREES

M. JENKINS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
A-	B+	B+	B	B-	B	B-	B+

and make plays on the move. Brees has above-average arm strength, and his willingness to force passes into tight windows will result in turnovers at times. He feels a calling to lead his team and is a smart, poised extension of the coaching staff on the field. Like Brees, Chase Daniel, the Saints' top backup, doesn't have ideal height for the position, and Daniel has only average arm strength. Sean Canfield, the No. 3 quarterback, has good size but lacks arm strength.

RUNNING BACKS

The committee approach that has worked so well for the Saints in the past will be in effect once again, with Mark Ingram, Pierre Thomas and Darren Sproles sharing the duties. Thomas doesn't have any physical traits that "wow" evaluators — which helps explain why he went undrafted in 2007 — but he has become a terrific all-around back. He has great balance and vision and can barrel through contact. Thomas lacks breakaway speed but has good burst, short-area quickness and hands. Ingram was hampered by injuries during his rookie season and underwent toe surgery in January. He won't be asked to shoulder a heavy workload given the team's depth at the position, but Ingram is a bell cow with the instincts, balance, shiftiness and strength to be a consistently solid producer when healthy. A dynamic rusher and receiver, Sproles had a career year in his first season in New Orleans. He is lightning-quick, can cut on a dime and change direction, can hide in the weeds and has excellent burst. He set an NFL record with 2,969 all-purpose yards in 2011. Powerful RB Chris Ivory is a violent north-south rusher with good short-area burst. FB Jed Collins has good hands and can clear lanes as a lead blocker.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Green Bay	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 7	San Diego	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 14	BYE	
Oct. 21	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Denver	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 5	Philadelphia	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Oakland	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 25	San Francisco	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Atlanta	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 9	at NY Giants	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 16	Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Carolina	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to New Orleans

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 8	At Green Bay	(+4.5)	34-42
Sept. 18	Chicago	(-5.5)	30-13
Sept. 25	Houston	(-3.5)	40-33
Oct. 2	At Jacksonville	(-8.5)	23-10
Oct. 9	At Carolina	(-6.5)	30-27
Oct. 16	At Tampa Bay	(-6.5)	20-26
Oct. 23	Indianapolis	(-13.5)	62-7
Oct. 30	At St. Louis	(-13.5)	21-31
Nov. 6	Tampa Bay	(-8.5)	27-16
Nov. 13	At Atlanta	(+1)	26-23*
Nov. 20	BYE		
Nov. 28	New York Giants	(-7)	49-24
Dec. 4	Detroit	(-9)	31-17
Dec. 11	At Tennessee	(-3.5)	22-17
Dec. 18	At Minnesota	(-7)	42-20
Dec. 26	Atlanta	(-7)	45-16
Jan. 1	Carolina	(-7)	45-17
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 7	Detroit	(-10.5)	45-28
Jan. 14	At San Francisco	(-3.5)	32-36

* Overtime

RECEIVERS

TE Jimmy Graham broke through last season, but he still has room to grow as a player and should keep getting better as long as he remains committed. Graham set franchise records in his second season, racking up 99 catches for 1,310 yards and 11 touchdowns. He stretches defenses vertically and has great length, size and body control. He makes plays in traffic, adjusts to the ball and isn't intimidated by contact. Graham doesn't have elite top-end speed, but he can separate from linebackers and safeties. He has learned much from fearless, physical and unselfish WR Marques Colston, who has exceeded 1,000 yards receiving in all but one of his six seasons. Colston doesn't have great burst or vertical speed, but he has good size and knows how to use it to box out defenders. WR Devery Henderson has the straight-line speed to threaten defenses vertically, and Lance Moore is a smallish, sure-handed slot receiver who pops out of his breaks and runs crisp routes. The long, wiry Adrian Arrington could get a chance to fill the void left by Robert Meachem's departure in free agency. Fourth-round rookie possession receiver Nick Toon has to prove he can stay healthy, but he has the size and hands to contribute immediately. At tight end, the Saints complement Graham with David Thomas, who is trying to return from a concussion that limited him to five games last season.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

New Orleans allowed an NFC-low 24 sacks last season. The front five also helped clear lanes for the sixth-ranked rushing offense, and the Saints sent three offensive linemen to the Pro Bowl. This is one of the most highly regarded O-lines in the league, even without Carl Nicks, who left to join the Buccaneers in free agency and was replaced by ex-Ravens OG Ben Grubbs. The Saints have invested heavily to protect the inside of the pocket for Drew Brees — aggressive, durable ORG Jahri Evans can dominate against average competition. He snaps his hips to generate movement at the line of scrimmage. Grubbs has good quickness and agility but can be overpowered. He's competitive but will not drive defenders off the ball the way Nicks does. Journeyman Brian de la Puente stepped in last season after Olin Kreutz abruptly decided to retire, and he proved to be a serviceable starting center, showing quickness and the base strength to hold his ground. Brees' blind-side protector, OLT Jermon Bushrod, allowed only three sacks last season, according to STATS LLC. He can get pushed back by the bull rush but maintains good balance. Charles Brown or Zach Strief will start at right tackle, and the two could compete in camp. Brown, a 2010 second-round pick, is very athletic for the right side and eventually might move to left tackle. Strief has functional anchor strength and can wall off. Tall, agile Matt Tennant backs up on the interior. Big-bodied, heavy-legged OG Andrew Tiller and giant OT Marcel Jones will back up as rookies.

DEFENSE

After three seasons as the Rams' head coach, Steve Spagnuolo was relieved of his duties and landed in New Orleans, where he replaces Gregg Williams as defensive coordinator. While his tenure in St. Louis didn't go according to plan, Spagnuolo is a respected defensive mind and became an attractive head-coaching candidate during his two-year stint as the Giants' D-coordinator. He preaches pressure and is willing to blitz, sometimes heavily, to create it. The Saints are still a 4-3 defense in their base set but likely will mix up their personnel and looks frequently,

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@G.B.**	**CHI.**	**HOU.**	**@JAX.**	**@CAR.**	**@T.B.**	**IND.**	**@ST.L.**	**T.B.**	**@ATL.**	**N.Y.G.**	**DET.**	**@TEN.**	**@MINN.**	**ATL.**	**CAR.**	
Score	34-42	30-13	40-33	23-10	30-27	20-26	62-7	21-31	27-16	26-23	49-24	31-17	22-17	42-20	45-16	45-17	
Total net yards	477	382	454	503	444	453	557	283	453	363	577	438	437	573	463	617	7474
Rushing yards	81	118	100	177	101	70	236	56	195	41	205	100	114	161	164	208	2127
Passing yards	396	264	354	326	343	383	321	227	258	322	372	338	323	412	299	409	5347
Rushing plays	21	29	22	34	28	20	38	20	28	16	30	23	26	38	23	35	431
Sacks allowed	3	1	2	3	2	0	2	6	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	24
Had intercepted	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	14
Fumbles lost	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Yards penalized	15	41	26	50	82	53	10	32	63	79	104	30	95	65	46	60	851
Punts	2	5	3	1	2	4	1	7	2	5	2	4	5	1	2	1	47

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	32:54	23:46	30:06	22:55	25:20	31:27	21:41	31:23	29:56	32:55	31:28	35:06	22:27	21:11	33:19	25:26	28:14
Total net yards	399	246	473	274	381	420	252	323	365	481	465	466	373	207	469	301	5895
Rushing yards	103	60	109	104	162	117	155	183	84	138	73	87	59	105	35	164	1738
Passing yards	296	186	364	170	219	303	97	140	281	343	392	379	314	102	434	137	4157
Rushing plays	27	12	25	17	22	25	23	31	20	32	22	22	17	18	14	24	351
Sacks allowed	2	6	2	3	1	0	1	4	1	1	1	3	2	4	0	2	33
Had intercepted	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	9
Fumbles lost	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	7
Yards penalized	48	47	56	15	65	64	49	64	80	85	32	107	54	84	57	5	912
Punts	4	8	2	4	3	4	6	7	3	5	2	4	5	7	3	4	71

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Brees	1-3-0	1-2-0	4-(-1)-0	3-10-0		3-21-0		1-(-1)-0	1-20-0		1-8-1		2-6-0	2-4-0	1-9-0	1-5-0	21-86-1
Collins				1-1-1	1-0-0		1-1-1							1-2-0			4-4-2
Henderson																1-9-0	1-9-0
Ingram	13-40-0	14-51-0	9-38-1	17-55-0	9-32-1	9-22-1	14-91-0			8-11-0	13-80-1	16-54-1					122-474-5
Ivory								6-18-0	15-67-0				13-53-0	18-74-0	8-35-0	19-127-1	79-374-1
Meachem		1-7-0					1-(-1)-0					1-8-0		1-4-0			4-18-0
Sproles	2-7-0	4-17-0	2-35-1	7-75-0	11-51-0	1-16-0	12-88-1	6-16-0	4-42-0	2-1-0	8-54-0	4-28-0	5-33-0	8-33-0	5-67-0	6-40-0	87-603-2
P. Thomas	5-31-0	9-41-0	7-28-0	6-36-0	7-18-0	7-11-0	10-57-0	7-23-1	8-66-1	6-29-0	8-63-1	2-10-0	6-22-0	8-44-1	9-53-1	5-30-0	110-562-5

PASSING **

Brees	32-49-0 419-3	26-37-0 270-3	31-44-2 370-3	31-44-2 351-1	32-45-1 359-2	29-45-3 383-1	31-35-0 325-5	30-44-2 269-1	27-36-1 258-2	30-43-0 322-2	24-38-0 363-4	26-36-0 342-3	36-47-0 337-2	32-40-0 412-5	23-39-2 307-4	28-35-1 389-5	468-657-14 5476-46

RECEIVING

Collins					1-1-1	1-3-0		3-15-0		1-12-0			2-4-0	1-12-0		2-3-1	11-50-2
Colston	6-81-0			1-8-0	5-69-0	7-118-1	7-98-2	3-50-0	5-52-0	8-113-0	3-78-0	6-54-0	7-105-2	8-91-0	7-81-1	7-145-2	80-1143-8
Gilmore									1-9-0				1-9-0	1-2-1			3-20-1
Graham	4-56-1	6-79-0	4-100-1	10-132-1	8-129-0	7-124-0	6-54-2	4-39-0	6-78-0	7-82-1	5-84-2	8-89-0	5-55-0	7-70-1	4-42-1	8-97-1	99-1310-11
Henderson	6-100-1	3-103-1	3-62-0		1-11-0	1-12-0	1-9-0	1-8-0	2-13-0		5-67-0		3-36-0	1-4-0	3-30-0	2-48-0	32-503-2
Ingram			2-(-3)-0	2-3-0	2-17-0	1-6-0	1-6-0			1-3-0	2-14-0						11-46-0
Meachem	5-70-1	4-10-1	5-51-1	4-59-0	4-38-0	1-23-0	2-27-0	2-12-0		2-69-1		3-119-1	1-15-0	2-22-0	3-75-1	2-30-0	40-620-6
L. Moore		1-6-0	9-88-1	5-50-0	3-30-0	2-46-0	3-44-0	7-74-1	3-20-1	1-28-0	5-54-2	2-23-1	4-20-0	5-91-2	2-53-0		52-627-8
Sproles	7-75-0	8-43-1	6-50-0	5-56-0	5-40-0	8-46-0	6-19-1	6-60-0	5-57-1	4-2-0	2-28-0	5-46-1	7-58-0	5-79-1	2-22-1	5-29-1	86-710-7
P. Thomas	4-37-0	2-14-0	1-15-0	4-43-0	3-24-1	1-5-0	5-68-0	4-11-0	4-25-0	4-9-0	3-47-0	2-11-0	6-35-0	2-41-0	2-4-0	3-36-0	50-425-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
3	Akiem Hicks	DT	Regina (Saskatchewan)	89
4	Nick Toon	WR	Wisconsin	122
5	Corey White	SS-CB	Samford	162
6	Andrew Tiller	OG	Syracuse	179
7	Marcel Jones	OT	Nebraska	234

A. HICKS

as they did under Williams, with Spagnuolo calling it.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Saints have regularly made strengthening the front four a priority over the past decade, as they spent their first overall draft pick on a defensive lineman in five of the past 10 drafts. The only Pro Bowler since 2006, however, was DRE Will Smith, who earned the honor that season. Smith's production has dipped in the two seasons since he made a career-high 13 sacks in '09, but he still plays with power and leverage, has very good size and is solid vs. the run and the pass. Smith was suspended for four games by the NFL for his role in the Saints' "bounty" program, and the team would be thrilled to see Cameron Jordan step up and help fill the void after he started slowly as a rookie. Jordan started all but one game at the DLE spot last season — he has the versatility to play inside or outside. He looks the part but disappears for long stretches and had only one sack. High-motored Turk McBride will back up when Smith returns but could start during his suspension. Backup DE Junior Galette shows a good burst off the edge. He's very athletic but lacks bulk to hold his ground against the run. Greg Romeus will be battling for reps after taking a redshirt year to recover from injury last season. On the interior, tank-like DT Sedrick Ellis is heading into his contract year and has yet to live up to the expectations that came with being the seventh overall pick in the '08 draft. Stout veteran Brodrick Bunkley was signed in the offseason to start opposite Ellis at tackle and is a very strong, pile-pushing anchor vs. the run. Rookie DT Akiem Hicks has excellent size and length but is raw. He'll factor into the rotation on the interior, as will former CFLer Tom Johnson and Remi Ayodele.

LINEBACKERS

The Saints added three potential starters at linebacker in free agency this offseason, creating good depth, but they will be without one of their leaders. With Jonathan Vilma suspended for the entire season, free-agent addition Curtis Lofton will play in the middle and become the quarterback of the defense. A highly productive run stuffer, Lofton has great instincts. Like Vilma, he's very tough and a dependable tackler. Lofton is quick to read and react and is an intense leader who shows good awareness in coverage. David Hawthorne has experience playing inside and outside and is a potential starter on the weak side. He doesn't have any overly impressive physical traits, but Hawthorne has excellent eyes, is a reliable wrap tackler and is highly competitive. Active, feisty SLB Scott Shanle struggles to rip through blockers when they engage him, but he battles hard. Ex-Ram Chris Chamberlain followed Steve Spagnuolo this offseason and could play on the weak side or the strong side. Martez Wilson has intriguing size and athleticism and could function best as a rush linebacker until he develops better instincts.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

While it's not all the secondary's fault, the Saints did finish tied for the second-fewest interceptions in the league (nine) and allowed a league-high 16 pass plays of 40 yards or longer last season. The Saints need their defensive backs to make more plays. FS Malcolm Jenkins is the leader in the back end and has Pro Bowl potential. He's a quality tackler in the open field and is deceptively quick. Jenkins has terrific length but can be beat over the top. Productive SS Roman Harper is susceptible to getting beat deep, too. He's best inside the box. The physical banger shows no fear of collisions and is an effective

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

		OFFENSE		
WR	12 COLSTON	16 Moore	88 Toon*	
OLT	74 BUSHROD	70 Jones*	78 Trautwein	
OLG	66 GRUBBS	69 Olsen		
C	60 DE LA PUENTE	65 Tennant		
ORG	73 EVANS	67 Tiller*		
ORT	71 BROWN	64 Strief		
TE	80 GRAHAM	85 D. Thomas		
WR	19 HENDERSON	87 Arrington	15 Roby	
QB	9 BREES	10 Daniel	4 Canfield	
RB	23 P. THOMAS	28 Ingram	43 Sproles	
FB	45 COLLINS	35 Hall		
		DEFENSE		
DLE	94 JORDAN	79 Romeus		
NT	77 BUNKLEY	92 Ayodele	75 King	
DT	98 ELLIS	76 Hicks*	96 T. Johnson	
DRE	90 McBRIDE	93 Galette	91 Smith	
SLB	58 SHANLE	57 Chamberlain	95 Wilson	
MLB	50 LOFTON	56 Hawthorne		
WLB	56 HAWTHORNE	52 Casillas		
LCB	33 GREER	24 White*		
RCB	21 ROBINSON	32 Patrick		
SS	41 HARPER	42 Abdul-Quddus	24 White*	
FS	27 JENKINS	40 Amaya		
		SPECIALISTS		
P	6 MORSTEAD			
PK	5 HARTLEY	2 Kasay		
H	6 MORSTEAD			
PR	43 SPROLES	16 Moore		
KR	43 SPROLES	15 Roby		
LS	47 DRESCHER			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Charles Byrd, asst. strength and conditioning; Pete Carmichael, offensive coordinator; Andre Curtis, asst. secondary; Dan Dalrymple, strength and conditioning; Henry Ellard, wide receivers; Ken Flajole, secondary; Brett Ingalls, running backs; Bill Johnson, defensive line; Travis Jones, asst. defensive line; Aaron Kromer, offensive line/running game; Joe Lombardi, quarterbacks; Mike Mallory, asst. special teams; Terry Malone, tight ends; Greg McMahon, special-teams coordinator; Sean Payton, head coach; Carter Sheridan, offensive assistant/wide receivers; Frank Smith, offensive assistant/offensive line; Steve Spagnuolo, defensive coordinator; Marcus Ungaro, defensive assistant; Joe Vitt, asst. head coach/linebackers; Brian Young, defensive assistant/linebackers.

blitzer — he led the team in sacks last season with a career-high 7½. At corner, 2010 first-round pick Patrick Robinson is expected to step into the starting lineup to replace Tracy Porter, who exited in free agency. Robinson has all the physical tools desired in a corner — good size, quickness, leaping ability and ball skills — but is an inconsistent tackler, and his technique could use refinement. Confident CB Jabari Greer is quick to transition out of his backpedal and has good closing speed, but he lacks size. The door is open for CB Johnny Patrick to earn playing time at nickel back. He's fluid in and out of his breaks and is a willing run supporter. Good-sized rookie Corey White can back up at strong safety or corner and contribute on special teams. Jonathon Amaya and Isa Abdul-Quddus are backup safeties who don't shy away from hard contact and will play on special teams.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Garrett Hartley suffered a hip injury in the second-to-last preseason game, and John Kasay did a very solid job filling in after Hartley was placed on injured reserve. Hartley signed a long-term deal in March 2011, but the Saints re-signed Kasay in the offseason to compete for the placekicking job. Hartley did miss some relatively easy kicks in '10, but he has decent pop in his leg and has proven he can deliver in high-pressure situations. P Thomas Morstead, who also kicks off, improved on his already good leg strength last season. He led the league with 68 touchbacks on kickoffs and ranked second in the league in net punting average (43.1 yards). He gets great hang time on his punts. The Saints have an elusive kickoff and punt returner in Darren Sproles, who has five career kick returns for touchdowns.

SUMMARY

The Saints can't immediately wipe away the stain left by "Bountygate," but they do have one of the league's best offenses, and if the defense tightens up, New Orleans could be heading to the postseason for the fourth season in a row. We don't expect this team to collapse in the face of adversity.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
42	Abdul-Quddus, Isa	S	6-1	220	2	Fordham	16/1
40	Amaya, Jonathon	S	6-2	205	3	Nevada	16/0
46	Anderson, Kadarron	LB	6-1	235	R	Furman	
87	Arrington, Adrian	WR	6-3	192	3	Michigan	3/0
92	Ayodele, Remi	DT	6-2	318	5	Oklahoma	16/13
18	Beyah, Malcolm	WR	5-11	192	R	Middle Tennessee	
9	Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	12	Purdue	16/16
62	Broughton, Braylon	DE	6-6	272	R	TCU	
71	Brown, Charles	OT	6-5	297	3	USC	8/5
77	Bunkley, Brodrick	DT	6-2	306	7	Florida State	16/13
74	Bushrod, Jermon	OT	6-5	315	6	Towson	16/16
59	Bussey, Nate	LB	6-2	220	2	Illinois	0/0
82	Byrne, Jack	TE	6-4	260	R	Wisconsin	
39	Cadet, Travaris	RB	6-1	210	R	Appalachian State	
4	Canfield, Sean	QB	6-4	223	2	Oregon State	0/0
52	Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-1	227	4	Wisconsin	12/4
57	Chamberlain, Chris	OLB	6-1	238	5	Tulsa	16/13
45	Collins, Jed	FB	6-1	255	2	Washington State	16/11
12	Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	7	Hofstra	14/7
10	Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	4	Missouri	16/0
20	Davis, A.J.	CB	6-0	183	R	Jacksonville State (Ala.)	
60	de la Puente, Brian	C	6-3	306	3	California	16/12
47	Drescher, Justin	LS	6-1	235	3	Colorado	16/0
98	Ellis, Sedrick	DT	6-1	307	5	USC	15/15
73	Evans, Jahri	OG	6-4	318	7	Bloomsburg (Pa.)	16/16
63	Folkerts, Brian	C	6-4	310	R	Washburn (Mo.)	
93	Galette, Junior	DE	6-2	258	3	Stillman (Ala.)	16/1
17	Givens, Chris	WR	6-2	203	R	Miami (Ohio)	
80	Graham, Jimmy	TE	6-7	265	3	Miami (Fla.)	16/11
33	Greer, Jabari	CB	5-11	180	9	Tennessee	16/16
66	Grubbs, Ben	OG	6-3	310	6	Auburn	10/10
22	Gumbs, Jose	S	5-10	210	R	Monmouth (N.J.)	
35	Hall, Korey	FB	6-0	236	6	Boise State	13/0
86	Hardy, Kevin	WR	6-0	186	R	The Citadel	
41	Harper, Roman	S	6-1	200	7	Alabama	16/16
5	Hartley, Garrett	PK	5-8	195	5	Oklahoma	0/0
56	Hawthorne, David	LB	6-0	246	5	TCU	15/14
19	Henderson, Devery	WR	5-11	200	9	LSU	16/13
54	Herring, Will	LB	6-3	241	6	Auburn	11/2
76	Hicks, Akiem	DT	6-5	324	R	Regina (Saskatchewan)	
81	Higgins, Michael	TE	6-5	242	2	Nebraska-Omaha	2/0
79	Hoch, Dan	OT	6-7	320	R	Missouri	
61	Howell, Nick	OG	6-5	295	2	USC	0/0
28	Ingram, Mark	RB	5-9	215	2	Alabama	10/4
29	Ivory, Chris	RB	6-0	222	3	Tiffin (Ohio)	6/2
27	Jenkins, Malcolm	S	6-0	204	4	Ohio State	15/15
53	Johnson, Stephen	LB	6-1	230	R	Temple	
96	Johnson, Tom	DT	6-3	288	2	Southern Mississippi	13/0
70	Jones, Marcel	OT	6-7	320	R	Nebraska	
94	Jordan, Cameron	DE	6-4	287	2	California	16/15
2	Kasay, John	PK	5-10	210	22	Georgia	16/0
75	King, Mitch	DT	6-2	280	2	Iowa	3/0
50	Lofton, Curtis	MLB	6-0	241	5	Oklahoma	16/16
90	McBride, Turk	DE	6-2	278	7	Tennessee	8/2
25	McIlwain, Kamaal	CB	5-10	175	2	Newberry (S.C.)	0/0
68	Miller, Swanson	DT	6-4	310	2	Oklahoma State	0/0
16	Moore, Lance	WR	5-9	190	7	Toledo	14/7
13	Morgan, Joe	WR	6-1	184	2	Walsh (Ohio)	0/0
6	Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	235	4	SMU	16/0
37	Nelson, Jerico	S	5-10	216	R	Arkansas	
69	Olsen, Eric	OG	6-3	305	3	Notre Dame	0/0
31	Parks, Cord	DB	5-11	182	2	Northeastern	0/0
32	Patrick, Johnny	CB	5-11	191	2	Louisville	9/0
21	Robinson, Patrick	CB	5-11	191	3	Florida State	15/7
15	Roby, Courtney	WR	6-0	189	7	Indiana	16/0
79	Romeus, Greg	DE	6-5	267	1	Pittsburgh	0/0
34	Scott, Laron	CB	5-9	179	R	Georgia Southern	
58	Shanle, Scott	LB	6-2	245	10	Nebraska	16/14
76	Simmons, Aderious	OT	6-7	308	R	Arizona State	
91	Smith, Will	DE	6-3	282	9	Ohio State	14/14
43	Sproles, Darren	RB	5-6	190	8	Kansas State	16/4
64	Strief, Zach	OT	6-7	320	7	Northwestern	11/11
14	Tanner, Andy	WR	6-0	183	2	Midwestern St. (Texas)	0/0
36	Taylor, Chris	RB	6-0	224	5	Indiana	0/0
65	Tennant, Matt	C-OG	6-4	300	3	Boston College	12/0
44	Tevis, Aaron	LB	6-3	234	R	Boise State	
85	Thomas, David	TE	6-3	248	7	Texas	5/2
38	Thomas, Johnny	S	5-11	205	R	Oklahoma State	
23	Thomas, Pierre	RB	5-11	215	6	Illinois	16/7
67	Tiller, Andrew	OG	6-5	334	R	Syracuse	
88	Toon, Nick	WR	6-4	218	R	Wisconsin	
78	Trautwein, Phil	OT	6-6	310	3	Florida	0/0
72	Tupou, Fenuki	OT	6-5	323	3	Oregon	0/0
30	Victorian, Josh	DB	5-10	190	2	Louisiana Tech	0/0
51	Vilma, Jonathan (susp.)	LB	6-1	230	9	Miami (Fla.)	11/11
68	Walker, Tyrunn	DE	6-3	294	R	Tulsa	
24	White, Corey	CB	6-1	205	R	Samford	
95	Wilson, Martez	LB	6-4	250	2	Illinois	13/1

2 ATLANTA Falcons

2012 PREDICTION: 10-6 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 10-6 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

M. SMITH

HEAD COACH: Mike Smith
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dirk Koetter
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Nolan
OWNER: Arthur Blank
STADIUM: Georgia Dome | **CAPACITY:** 71,250
PLAYING SURFACE: FieldTurf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.atlantafalcons.com

Falcons owner Arthur Blank's patience is being tested. His club is a consistent winner for the first time in its history. Atlanta has made the playoffs in each of the past two seasons — a franchise first — and has advanced to the postseason in three of the four seasons since GM Thomas Dimitroff and head coach Mike Smith were hired. They inherited a mess left behind by Michael Vick and Bobby Petrino and turned the team in the right direction remarkably quickly.

They don't have a single playoff win to show for it, though, after getting blown out by the eventual Super Bowl champion in each of their past two playoff appearances — and Blank has made it clear that he wants a ring.

Changes were in order in the offseason, and the biggest were made to the coaching staff, where Smith hired new coordinators for the first time since he came aboard in 2008.

When the Falcons focused on re-signing their own core players and didn't make any marquee additions in free agency, the message from the top of the organization became clear: The roster needs tweaking, but it's not time for an overhaul.

The Falcons are counting on a fresh set of eyes serving both sides of the ball very well in '12, and Smith would like to see more consistency from a group that was too up-and-down in '11.

In one of the league's more competitive divisions, the Falcons will seek to finally get over the hump and taste playoff success with a familiar, and hungry, group of players.

JULIO JONES

OFFENSE

The Falcons moved quickly to land offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter as Mike Mularkey's replacement after Mularkey departed to become the Jaguars' head coach. Koetter, who directed the Jaguars' offense for the past five seasons, will run a variation of a vertical power offense and tweak, not completely alter, the playbook. Much of the terminology is the same, and Koetter has indicated the Matt Ryan-led, no-huddle attack still will be a big part of what they do. Koetter will have a more explosive passing offense to work with than he had in his previous stop, with a future Hall of Fame tight end and two No. 1-caliber receivers, but it's also an offense that finished with 12 fewer points in 2011 than it had in '10, and it didn't produce a single point in a playoff loss to the Giants.

QUARTERBACKS

The Falcons believe that Matt Ryan is one of the top 10 quarterbacks in the league. Heading into his fifth season, the question is: Can he take another step and solidify himself as one of the elite players at the position? There are some within the organization who believe he has potential that has gone untapped, and he still needs to prove himself in the postseason. Ryan made the only Pro Bowl of his career after the 2010 season and followed up that performance by setting career highs in passing yards (4,177) — a franchise single-season

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

OG Vince Manuwai, CB Asante Samuel, MLB Lofa Tatupu.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

CB Kelvin Hayden, MLB Curtis Lofton, S James Sanders, WR-RS Eric Weems.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Matt Ryan

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE John Abraham

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
SS William Moore

POSITION BATTLE
MLB: Lofa Tatupu vs. Akeem Dent

M. RYAN

J. ABRAHAM

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B	B	B+	C	B-	C	B	B-

record — and touchdown passes (29) while compiling the league's eighth-highest passer rating (92.2) in 2011. He has great intangibles — Ryan is an intelligent, hardworking, fiery on-field leader. He doesn't have the strongest arm, though. Ryan made bulking up and getting into better condition a priority in the offseason. He can make all the throws. He has some escapability but will get happy feet in the pocket at times when he senses pressure, as he did vs. Philadelphia early last season. Chris Redman is the top backup, with John Parker Wilson serving as the third-stringer. Redman is an effective game manager, and the quick-armed Wilson, who has never taken a regular-season snap, is an emergency option.

RUNNING BACKS

When the Falcons finished in the bottom half of the league in rushing last season, it marked a first in the Michael Turner era in Atlanta. Part of the reason for the diminished rushing returns could be traced to an offense that has become more comfortable going to the air. Turner, despite being bothered by a groin injury for much of the season, still finished first in the NFC in rushing (1,340 yards), but he's also the only back in the league to have exceeded 300 carries in three of the past four seasons and is entering his first season over the age of 30. The Falcons have acknowledged this offseason that monitoring his carries will be as important as ever. He's a thickly built bell cow with good power, strength and vision, but elusiveness and acceleration have never been strengths of his game. Turner doesn't have a major role in the passing game, and small-framed, quick-footed 2011 fifth-round pick Jacquizz Rodgers will be more involved, particularly as a pass catcher. Jason Snelling, a compact, between-the-tackles runner, sees a handful of touches per game and likely would step in as the featured back if Turner had to miss time with an injury. At fullback, two-time All-Pro Ovie Mughelli, a stout, physical lead blocker, is returning after landing on injured reserve with a torn right MCL. The Falcons drafted his tough, smart heir apparent, Bradie Ewing, in the fifth round.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 17	Denver	8:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	at San Diego	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 30	Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Washington	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	Oakland	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	BYE	
Oct. 28	at Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Dallas	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 11	at New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Arizona	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 29	New Orleans	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	NY Giants	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 22	at Detroit	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 30	Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Atlanta

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Chicago	(-2)	12-30
Sept. 18	Philadelphia	(+2.5)	35-31
Sept. 25	At Tampa Bay	(+1)	13-16
Oct. 2	At Seattle	(-6)	30-28
Oct. 9	Green Bay	(+6)	14-25
Oct. 16	Carolina	(-3.5)	31-17
Oct. 23	At Detroit	(+4.5)	23-16
Oct. 30	BYE		
Nov. 6	At Indianapolis	(-7)	31-7
Nov. 13	New Orleans	(-1)	23-26*
Nov. 20	Tennessee	(-6)	23-17
Nov. 27	Minnesota	(-10)	24-14
Dec. 4	At Houston	(-2)	10-17
Dec. 11	At Carolina	(-3)	31-23
Dec. 15	Jacksonville	(-13.5)	41-14
Dec. 26	At New Orleans	(+7)	16-45
Jan. 1	Tampa Bay	(-10)	45-24

* Overtime

RECEIVERS

The club put off addressing other needs to get QB Matt Ryan an explosive playmaker in last year's draft, having traded up to select WR Julio Jones. Few teams in the league can rival the potential of the 1-2 punch the Falcons have at the position with Roddy White and Jones. White, the franchise's all-time leader in receiving yards, is only the eighth player in league history to record five consecutive seasons with at least 80 catches and 1,000 yards. He's physical and has tremendous body control. He adjusts to throws and has good length, but White displays poor concentration at times. Jones, who set a franchise record with eight touchdown catches as a rookie, made his share of mental errors, too — including in Week 13 vs. Houston last season — and was learning on the fly. With his rare combination of prototypical size, toughness, vertical speed and burst, he has the potential to become one of the league's elite players as long as he stays healthy. Small-framed slot receiver Harry Douglas has no fear of going over the middle and has the quickness to pick up yards after the catch. At tight end, 12-time Pro Bowler Tony Gonzalez is second in league history with 1,149 receptions and still can be highly effective at age 36. He has great balance, sticky hands, makes plays in traffic and is a willing blocker.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group had established an identity as a physical, nasty and consistent unit. It failed to live up to that standard in 2011. With a new offensive line coach in Pat Hill, the team has raised the bar for the front five and wants to see increased competition for starting spots. The powerful, well-built OLG Justin Blalock and ORT Tyson Clabo — a long, rangy, competitive player with decent athleticism — are entrenched as starters. OLT Sam Baker's career has been plagued by injuries. He was moved to guard last season after he returned from back surgery, but the team is committed to giving Baker, who has good quickness and agility, another shot to protect Matt Ryan's blind side. Will Svitek, who started 10 games at left tackle last season, earned a shot to at least compete against Baker to start, but the team might prefer to use him in a swing backup role. Third-round pick Lamar Holmes has excellent size and length and could compete to start or back up at either tackle spot. Longtime fixture Todd McClure, who has spent his entire 13-season career with the Falcons, faces a challenge from third-year veteran Joe Hawley at center. Vince Manuwai, who was out of the league last season after the Jaguars cut him, and Mike Johnson are in the mix at right guard, but rookie Peter Konz, who has great size but lacks ideal strength, will also get a chance to win the starting job there. Konz can play center or guard, and he's likely to eventually slide into the middle.

DEFENSE

Mike Nolan replaces Brian VanGorder as defensive coordinator, and although Nolan ran a 3-4 defense with the Dolphins and Broncos the past two seasons, the Falcons are expected to remain a base 4-3 team. Nolan is charged with improving a pass defense that ranked 20th, 22nd, 28th and 21st the past four seasons and keeping a stout

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@CHI.**	**PHIL.**	**@T.B.**	**@SEA.**	**G.B.**	**CAR.**	**@DET.**	**@IND.**	**N.O.**	**TEN.**	**MINN.**	**@HOU.**	**@CAR.**	**JAX.**	**@N.O.**	**T.B.**	
Score	12-30	35-31	13-16	30-28	14-25	31-17	23-16	31-7	23-26	23-17	24-14	10-17	31-23	41-14	16-45	45-24	
Total net yards	386	318	325	412	251	325	328	432	481	432	335	337	394	373	469	428	6026
Rushing yards	110	138	30	121	95	166	129	163	138	116	89	70	86	97	35	251	1834
Passing yards	276	180	295	291	156	159	199	269	343	316	246	267	308	276	434	177	4192
Rushing plays	14	29	15	36	22	35	31	41	32	36	29	18	28	35	14	38	453
Sacks allowed	5	4	4	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	26
Had intercepted	1	2	1	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	13
Fumbles lost	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	8
Yards penalized	65	57	50	35	44	57	80	10	85	55	30	43	50	31	57	20	769
Punts	5	7	3	4	5	3	5	7	5	2	5	4	6	5	3	2	71

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	33:19	30:03	35:52	19:50	33:11	29:26	25:03	22:14	27:05	23:01	25:21	35:04	29:17	21:29	26:41	29:52	27:55
Total net yards	377	447	295	372	426	368	263	186	363	298	226	337	416	207	463	294	5338
Rushing yards	88	133	115	53	57	139	104	83	41	41	64	162	157	116	164	35	1552
Passing yards	289	314	180	319	369	229	159	103	322	257	162	175	259	91	299	259	3786
Rushing plays	27	30	36	15	20	26	20	21	16	14	24	44	23	19	23	14	372
Sacks allowed	5	0	0	0	4	1	3	2	0	1	4	3	2	5	1	2	33
Had intercepted	1	1	2	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	3	19
Fumbles lost	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	10
Yards penalized	56	20	66	40	55	85	84	32	79	86	49	35	50	40	46	20	843
Punts	6	4	3	3	2	2	6	9	5	5	7	5	6	7	2	3	75

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Jones			1-(-9)-0		1-17-0			2-33-0						1-6-0		1-9-0	6-56-0
Rodgers	2-0-0	3-17-0	2-7-0	6-25-0	1-11-0	1-8-0	1-5-0	10-44-0	7-30-0	2-2-0	3-19-0	1-0-0	1-4-0	8-10-0	1-(-1)-0	8-24-1	57-205-1
Ryan		4-6-0	1-12-0	4-26-0	3-9-0	3-7-1	3-2-1	2-0-0	1-9-0	6-3-0	4-3-0	1-10-0	3-0-0		2-(-3)-0		37-84-2
Snelling	2-10-0				1-2-0	3-12-0		8-15-0	1-0-0	7-11-0	3-7-0	2-16-0	3-6-0	5-22-0		9-50-0	44-151-0
Turner	10-100-0	21-114-1	11-20-0	26-70-2	16-56-1	27-139-2	27-122-0	19-71-1	22-96-0	21-100-1	19-60-0	14-44-0	21-76-0	19-61-1	11-39-0	17-172-2	301-1340-11

PASSING **

Redman							0-1-0							5-6-0	6-9-0	7-12-1	18-28-1
							0-0							56-0	61-0	71-0	188-0
Ryan	31-47-1	17-28-2	26-47-1	28-42-0	18-32-2	14-22-0	20-34-2	14-24-1	29-52-1	22-32-0	27-34-0	20-47-2	22-38-0	19-26-0	34-52-0	6-9-0	347-566-12
	319-0	195-4	330-1	291-1	167-1	163-1	218-1	275-3	351-2	316-1	262-3	267-1	320-4	224-3	373-1	106-2	4177-29

RECEIVING

Cox									2-8-0								2-8-0
Douglas	2-10-0	2-19-0	5-35-0		2-16-0	2-57-0	4-62-0		8-133-0	4-51-0	2-45-1	4-43-0	2-12-0	1-12-0	1-3-0		39-498-1
Gonzalez	5-72-0	7-83-2	2-18-1	7-56-1	6-60-0	3-29-0	5-62-0	4-36-1	6-71-1	5-74-1	9-69-0	7-100-0	7-82-0	1-14-0	5-41-0	1-8-0	80-875-7
Jones	5-71-0	2-29-0	6-115-0	11-127-0	1-16-0			3-131-2	2-9-0			4-68-0	3-104-2	5-85-1	8-128-1	4-76-2	54-959-8
Mughelli		1-1-1				2-20-1	1-4-0										4-25-2
Palmer				1-2-0		1-8-0	1-8-0	1-9-0		1-11-0	2-8-1				2-19-0	1-7-0	10-72-1
Rodgers	3-33-0		2-19-0	1-10-0		1-6-0	3-12-0	1-16-0	1-8-0		2-12-0	1-5-0	2-39-1	1-4-0	2-19-0	1-5-0	21-188-1
Snelling	5-32-0	1-8-0	2-3-0		2-21-0	1-7-0	1-18-0		2-25-1	1-4-0	1-4-0		1-(-1)-0	4-26-0	4-28-0	1-4-0	26-179-1
Turner	3-40-0	1-32-0		2-18-0		1-8-0		1-7-0	1-10-0	1-9-0	1-4-0			2-4-0	4-36-0		17-168-0
Weems					1-4-0				3-25-0	3-20-0					3-33-0	1-8-0	11-90-0
White	8-61-0	3-23-1	9-140-0	6-78-0	6-50-1	2-21-0	5-52-1	4-76-0	4-62-0	7-147-0	10-120-1	4-51-1	7-84-1	10-135-2	11-127-0	4-69-0	100-1296-8

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

run defense from dropping off despite the departure of MLB Curtis Lofton in free agency.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Falcons are hoping to get more out of a DE tandem that didn't play up to expectations in 2011. Atlanta signed DLE Ray Edwards with the hope that he would complement DRE John Abraham and bolster the pass rush, but Edwards, who has undergone knee surgery in each of the past two offseasons, was too rarely disruptive and made only 3½ sacks. Although Abraham led the team with 9½ sacks, his production was spotty. Edwards has never been a premier sack artist. He struggles to shed when a blocker gets his hands into his pads, and he relies on speed and burst. Abraham has a more complex arsenal of pass-rush moves and can explode off the edge with a good first step. He lacks bulk and the strength to anchor vs. the run, though. High-motored Kroy Biermann factors into the rotation at defensive end, and DE Lawrence Sidbury has great arm length and speed to contribute as a situational pass rusher and will have to compete against long-armed rookie DE Jonathan Massaquoi. The Falcons have used Corey Peters at nose tackle, but he has the versatility and athleticism to line up as a three- or five-technique. Jonathan Babineaux, the starter at three-technique, can fight through blocks to disrupt the backfield, but he can be contained by top competition and disappears at times. Atlanta envisioned Peria Jerry as a starter on the interior when he was drafted in the first round back in 2009. While he flashes a burst, Jerry doesn't play with much power and can be pushed around. He has played mostly in sub packages.

LINEBACKERS

A productive, dependable leader, Curtis Lofton had played just about every snap for the Falcons at middle linebacker since he entered the league in 2008, but he departed in free agency after Atlanta signed MLB Lofa Tatupu. A three-time Pro Bowler, Tatupu spent last season out of the league after undergoing surgeries on both knees in January 2011, and the 29-year-old has to prove he can stay healthy. He could thrive as an instinctive, hard-hitting enforcer if the defensive line gives him room to roam and he avoids the injury bug. Akeem Dent struggles to drop back without getting turned around. However, he will get a chance to compete to get the call on early downs in the middle. Productive WLB Sean Weatherspoon emerged last season and will be called upon to provide more leadership. He's an active, fast-flowing striker and has no qualms about letting his voice be heard — he's very vocal. Aggressive SLB Stephen Nicholas has good upper-body strength to take on blockers and is a violent hitter who can bring heat off the edge as a blitzer. He shows some hip tightness. Coverage is not his strength, and he may not play in the nickel package.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

The Falcons' franchise player, LCB Brent Grimes, is a fluid, quick-twitch athlete. He lacks ideal size and bulk but willingly steps up in run support and has outstanding leaping ability — he goes up and fights for the ball against larger receivers. Atlanta made physical RCB Dunta Robinson one of the league's highest-paid corners in 2010. He has been consistent. Robinson will give up some big plays by being overaggressive but could be comfortable playing inside when the Falcons use their nickel package. Atlanta added a potential playmaker at corner just before the draft, trading for Asante Samuel, whose 38 interceptions since 2006 are a league high. He's not a physical or consistent run defender

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
2	Peter Konz	C-OG	Wisconsin	55
3	Lamar Holmes	OT	Southern Mississippi	91
5	Bradie Ewing	FB	Wisconsin	157
5	Jonathan Massaquoi	DE	Troy	164
6	Charles Mitchell	SS	Mississippi State	192
7	Travian Robertson	DT	South Carolina	249

P. KONZ

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE			
WR	**11 JONES**	83 Douglas		
OLT	**72 BAKER**	74 Svitek	76 Holmes*	
OLG	**63 BLALOCK**	75 Reynolds	69 A. Jackson	
C	**62 McCLURE**	61 Hawley	66 Konz*	
ORG	**66 KONZ***	65 Manuwai	79 Johnson	
ORT	**77 CLABO**	74 Svitek	76 Holmes*	
TE	**88 GONZALEZ**	81 Palmer		
WR	**84 WHITE**	80 Meier		
QB	**2 RYAN**	8 Redman	4 Wilson	
RB	**33 TURNER**	44 Snelling	32 Jac. Rodgers	
FB	**34 MUGHELLI**	36 Ewing*		
	DEFENSE			
DLE	**93 EDWARDS**	71 Biermann	98 Matthews	
UT	**95 BABINEAUX**	94 Jerry		
DT	**91 PETERS**	99 Walker	92 Robertson*	
DRE	**55 ABRAHAM**	90 Sidbury	96 Massaquoi*	
SLB	**54 NICHOLAS**	59 Adkins		
MLB	**51 TATUPU**	52 Dent		
WLB	**56 WEATHERSPOON**	50 James		
LCB	**20 GRIMES**	24 Franks		
RCB	**23 ROBINSON**	22 Samuel	21 Owens	
SS	**25 MOORE**	26 Mitchell*		
FS	**28 DeCOUD**	39 Schillinger		
	SPECIALISTS			
P	**5 BOSHER**			
PK	**3 BRYANT**			
H	**5 BOSHER**			
PR	**83 DOUGLAS**	24 Franks		
KR	**83 DOUGLAS**	32 Jac. Rodgers		
LS	**82 ZELENKA**			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Keith Armstrong, special-teams coordinator; Jonas Beauchemin, asst. strength coach; Gerald Brown, running backs; Mark Collins, defensive assistant; Joe Danna, defensive backs; Paul Dunn, asst. offensive line; Jeff Fish, director of athletic performance; Ray Hamilton, defensive line; Pat Hill, offensive line; Dirk Koetter, offensive coordinator; Tim Lewis, secondary; Mike Nolan, defensive coordinator; Glenn Pires, linebackers; Terry Robiskie, wide receivers; Chris Scelfo, tight ends; Mike Smith, head coach; Eric Sutulovich, asst. special teams; Glenn Thomas, quarterbacks; Andrew Weidinger, offensive assistant.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
55	Abraham, John	DE	6-4	263	13	South Carolina	15/15
48	Adams, Corey	LS	6-4	251	1	Kansas State	0/0
59	Adkins, Spencer	OLB	5-11	236	4	Miami (Fla.)	10/1
95	Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	300	8	Iowa	13/13
72	Baker, Sam	OT	6-5	301	5	USC	12/6
71	Biermann, Kroy	DE	6-3	255	5	Montana	16/1
63	Blalock, Justin	OG	6-4	326	6	Texas	16/16
5	Bosher, Matt	P	6-0	208	2	Miami (Fla.)	16/0
85	Branson, Marquez	TE	6-3	247	4	Central Arkansas	0/0
85	Brown, Lamark	TE	6-3	220	R	Minnesota State	
3	Bryant, Matt	PK	5-9	203	11	Baylor	16/0
15	Calvin, Michael	WR	6-2	210	1	California	0/0
77	Clabo, Tyson	OT	6-6	329	9	Wake Forest	16/16
12	Cone, Kevin	WR	6-2	216	2	Georgia Tech	1/0
43	Council, Rico	LB	6-1	255	R	Tennessee State	
42	Cox, Mike	FB	6-0	252	5	Georgia Tech	9/5
14	Davis, Dominique	QB	6-3	210	R	East Carolina	
19	Davis, Drew	WR	6-1	205	1	Oregon	0/0
28	DeCoud, Thomas	S	6-2	193	5	California	16/15
52	Dent, Akeem	LB	6-1	242	2	Georgia	16/0
83	Douglas, Harry	WR	6-0	182	5	Louisville	16/4
93	Edwards, Ray	DE	6-5	268	7	Purdue	16/16
36	Ewing, Bradie	FB	5-11	239	R	Wisconsin	
40	Faulcon, Chad	S	6-0	190	R	Montclair State (N.J.)	
24	Franks, Dominique	CB	5-11	194	3	Oklahoma	14/4
40	Frey, Robbie	RB	6-0	203	R	Kutztown (Pa.)	
86	Gallarda, Tommy	TE	6-5	262	1	Boise State	0/0
88	Gonzalez, Tony	TE	6-5	243	16	California	16/16
20	Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	181	6	Shippensburg (Pa.)	12/12
46	Gruder, Max	LB	6-2	230	R	Pittsburgh	
30	Hansen, Matt	LB	6-1	230	1	Rhode Island	0/0
70	Harris, Bryce	OT	6-6	300	R	Fresno State	
49	Harris, Jerrell	LB	6-3	242	R	Alabama	
47	Harris, Josh	LS	6-1	224	R	Auburn	
61	Hawley, Joe	C-OG	6-3	297	3	UNLV	16/12
76	Holmes, Lamar	OT	6-6	333	R	Southern Mississippi	
64	Horn, Tyler	C	6-4	305	R	Miami (Fla.)	
69	Jackson, Andrew	OG	6-6	299	2	Fresno State	0/0
16	Jackson, Marcus	WR	6-1	195	R	Lamar	
50	James, Robert	OLB	5-11	235	4	Arizona State	1/0
94	Jerry, Peria	DT	6-2	294	4	Mississippi	16/4
79	Johnson, Mike	OG	6-5	312	3	Alabama	2/0
11	Jones, Julio	WR	6-3	220	2	Alabama	13/13
70	Kibble, Ray	DT	6-4	305	R	Kansas State	
66	Konz, Peter	OG-C	6-5	315	R	Wisconsin	
68	Manley, Phillip	OG	6-5	309	R	Toledo	
65	Manuwai, Vince	OG	6-2	333	10	Hawaii	0/0
38	Markett, Marty	CB	5-10	162	R	South Carolina	
96	Massaquoi, Jonathan	DE	6-2	264	R	Troy	
98	Matthews, Cliff	DE	6-4	257	2	South Carolina	0/0
27	McClain, Robert	CB	5-9	195	3	Connecticut	0/0
62	McClure, Todd	C	6-1	296	14	LSU	13/13
80	Meier, Kerry	WR	6-2	224	3	Kansas	12/0
26	Mitchell, Charles	S	5-11	202	R	Mississippi State	
25	Moore, William	S	6-0	218	4	Missouri	12/11
34	Mughelli, Ovie	FB	6-1	250	10	Wake Forest	7/5
30	Nance, Dimitri	RB	5-10	218	3	Arizona State	0/0
54	Nicholas, Stephen	OLB	6-3	230	6	South Florida	10/8
86	Nissley, Adam	TE	6-6	267	R	UCF	
69	Nzegwu, Louis	DE	6-4	255	R	Wisconsin	
21	Owens, Christopher	CB	5-9	179	4	San Jose State	14/2
81	Palmer, Michael	TE	6-5	260	3	Clemson	16/2
17	Pearcy, Cody	WR	5-11	160	R	Huntingdon (Ala.)	
91	Peters, Corey	DT	6-3	295	3	Kentucky	15/15
97	Powell, Carlton	DT	6-2	312	5	Virginia Tech	3/0
8	Redman, Chris	QB	6-3	229	13	Louisville	5/0
67	Regis, Micanor	DT	6-3	305	R	Miami (Fla.)	
75	Reynolds, Garrett	OG-OT	6-7	317	4	North Carolina	16/7
92	Robertson, Travian	DT	6-4	302	R	South Carolina	
23	Robinson, Dunta	CB	5-10	182	9	South Carolina	16/16
32	Rodgers, Jacquizz	RB	5-6	196	2	Oregon State	16/0
18	Rodgers, James	WR	5-7	188	R	Oregon State	
2	Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	220	5	Boston College	16/16
22	Samuel, Asante	CB	5-10	185	10	UCF	14/14
53	Schiller, Pat	LB	6-2	235	R	Northern Illinois	
39	Schillinger, Shann	S	6-0	202	3	Montana	16/0
90	Sidbury, Lawrence	DE	6-3	265	4	Richmond	16/0
35	Smith, Antone	RB	5-9	190	4	Florida State	12/0
44	Snelling, Jason	RB	5-11	223	6	Virginia	15/0
74	Svitek, Will	OT	6-6	309	8	Stanford	16/10
51	Tatupu, Lofa	LB	6-0	250	8	USC	0/0
37	Thompson, Peyton	CB	5-11	180	R	San Jose State	
41	Tuimaunei, Suaesi	S	6-1	205	1	Oregon State	0/0
33	Turner, Michael	RB	5-10	244	9	Northern Illinois	16/15
99	Walker, Vance	DT	6-2	307	4	Georgia Tech	16/0
29	Walls, Darrin	CB	6-0	190	1	Notre Dame	5/0
56	Weatherspoon, Sean	OLB	6-1	239	3	Missouri	16/16
84	White, Roddy	WR	6-0	212	8	UAB	16/16
4	Wilson, John Parker	QB	6-2	218	4	Alabama	0/0
82	Zelenka, Joe	LS	6-3	260	14	Wake Forest	16/0
9	Zimmerman, Dawson	P	6-2	205	R	Clemson	

but has good ball skills. Dominique Franks and Chris Owens provide solid depth. Franks gained some starting experience late last season when Grimes was recovering from knee surgery. He has good size. Owens is smaller but has the burst and toughness to compete against Franks for reps. FS Thomas DeCoud is a capable center fielder and has above-average ball skills. He's a violent and willing hitter but is not the most dependable tackler. SS William Moore has missed time with injuries in two of his first three seasons. He flashes playmaking ability and has good size. Moore is not very instinctive, though.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK Matt Bryant's 88.6 percent accuracy on field goals since joining the Falcons in 2009 ranks second in the league over that span. He doesn't have great deep range but is extremely reliable inside 40 yards. The Falcons entrusted Matt Bosher with the punting and kickoff duties last season during his rookie year. He improved over the course of the campaign and turned in a very solid showing — Atlanta held teams to a league-best 4.8 yards per punt return. However, Bosher doesn't have the leg strength to consistently produce touchbacks on kickoffs. Atlanta's special-teams ace, Eric Weems, signed with the Bears in free agency, leaving a void at kickoff and punt returner. The duties could be handed over to Harry Douglas, who hasn't handled returns since his rookie year in 2008. He boasts quickness and agility, although he isn't very elusive in the open field. Dominique Franks and Jacquizz Rodgers will get some looks.

SUMMARY

Winning seasons and playoff berths are not enough to make the Falcons content anymore. It's a sign of the tremendous progress the franchise has made over the past four seasons, but the pressure is on to take the next step. The Falcons opted to go after the coaching staff with a hammer and made some significant roster tweaks in the offseason. A deep playoff run is the only thing that will leave them satisfied.

3 CAROLINA Panthers

2012 PREDICTION: 8-8 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 6-10 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

R. RIVERA

HEAD COACH: Ron Rivera
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Rob Chudzinski
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Sean McDermott
OWNER: Jerry Richardson
STADIUM: Bank of America | **CAPACITY:** 73,778
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.panthers.com

A 4-2 record in the final six games of the 2011 season — with one of the most gifted players to ever enter the league leading the way — has the Panthers, and many others around the league, feeling very optimistic about their future.

QB Cam Newton is coming off one of the more impressive rookie seasons in league history, and Carolina's offense should continue to be one of the league's most explosive.

Will the Panthers' defense tighten up and carve an identity of its own?

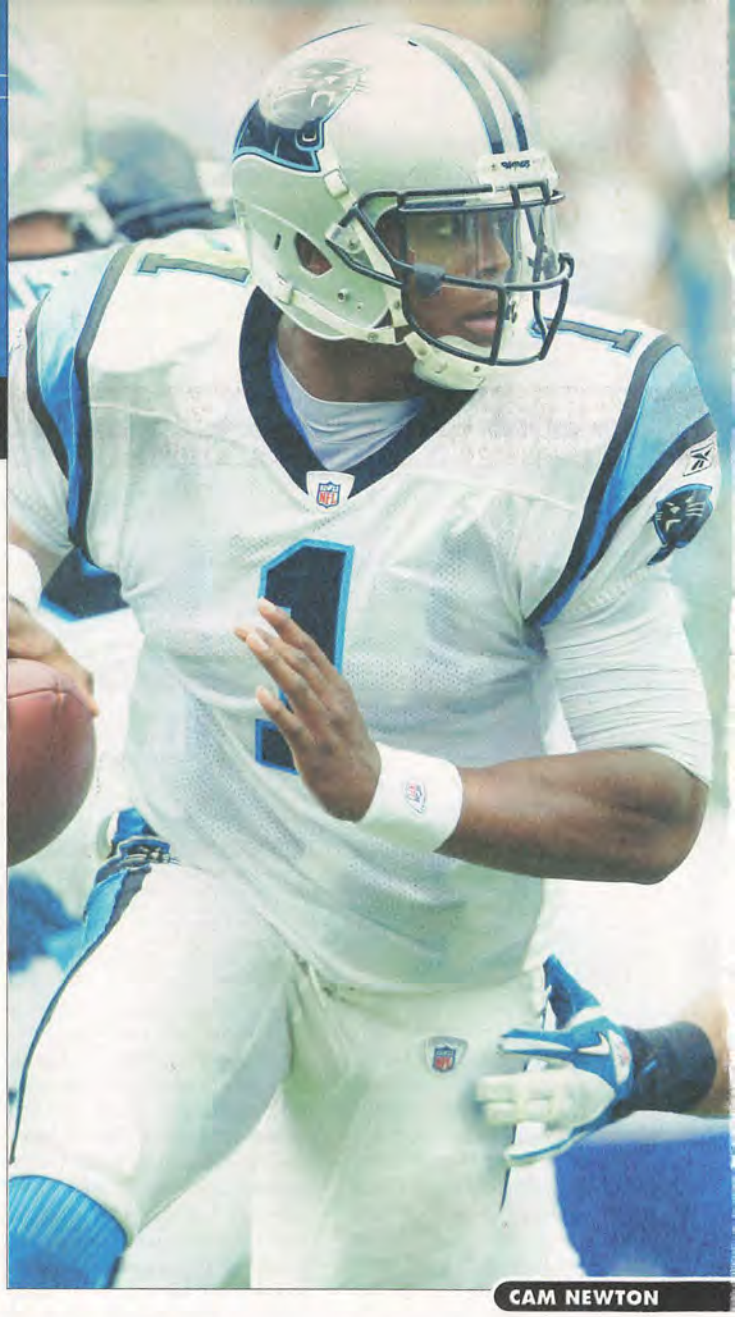
It was ravaged by injuries in 2011, but the thought of a defense returning at full strength has head coach Ron Rivera fired up.

"I hope people think we're not ready," Rivera told PFW during last season's playoffs. "I really do, because I think the biggest thing we have to do is grow, get our guys healthy again, put it together and then get going. I think we can. If (the defense) can pick it up, with the way our offense has the ability to play, we can become a much more complete team."

If Newton takes another step and Rivera, a former defensive coordinator, whips the "D" into shape, it wouldn't be surprising if the Panthers made it back to the playoffs for the first time since the 2008 season.

The turnaround from the horrendous 2-14 showing the team put forth in 2010 has been dramatic.

Carolina didn't make any major personnel changes in free agency, but a quiet few months was not enough to kill the buzz around this club.


CAM NEWTON

OFFENSE

Coming off a season in which the Panthers set a franchise high in total yards and finished fifth in the league in total points, this unit has created high expectations. Coordinator Rob Chudzinski returns after interviewing for three head-coaching jobs and, for the first time, will get a full offseason to work with dual-threat QB Cam Newton and the rest of the offense. The Panthers, who led the NFL with 90 plays of 20 yards or longer last season, have built an explosive, vertical passing game, but they have great balance, becoming the first team in league history to have three players rush for 700-plus yards in the same season.

QUARTERBACKS

The Panthers landed one of the rarest talents to ever enter the league at the top of the 2011 draft. Cam Newton had a historic first season — he threw for 4,051 yards, the most by a rookie in NFL history, and became the first player in league history to throw for 4,000 yards and rush for at least 500 yards in one season. He also set a record for quarterbacks, rushing for 14 touchdowns. He has all the tools — a big, strong frame and outstanding arm strength — and has established a reputation as a hard worker. Newton still has to prove himself to his teammates in certain areas, though — he could alter his body language on the sideline and sometimes struggles to manage his emotions when he's frustrated. He was hesitant to speak out as a rookie out

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

OT Bruce Campbell, S Haruki Nakamura, LB Kenny Onatolu, OG Mike Pollak, FB Mike Tolbert.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

P Jason Baker, LB Dan Connor, WR Legedu Naanee, OG Geoff Schwartz, OG Travelle Wharton.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Cam Newton

DEFENSIVE MVP
LB Jon Beason

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
DT Terrell McClain

POSITION BATTLE
RCB: Open competition

C. NEWTON

J. BEASON

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	A	C+	A-	C-	B+	C	D+

of respect for veteran players, but he will now be looked to for leadership much more. Newton's top backup is Derek Anderson, who has good size and arm strength but spotty accuracy and a tendency to get careless with the ball. The Panthers were pleased with the way Jimmy Clausen handled his demotion after a disappointing starting stint in 2010.

RUNNING BACKS

Carolina has had one of the league's more dynamic RB duos since 2008, when Jonathan Stewart was drafted to join DeAngelo Williams, but the Panthers added even more power in the offseason, signing ex-Charger Mike Tolbert. Stewart has the best all-around ability of the three. His production could rise to elite levels in a system where he was the featured back, but splitting carries with Williams should be beneficial to both backs' career longevity. Stewart is a compact, tough, powerful, strong back with good speed and receiving ability. He doesn't have an explosive second gear, but he fights through contact and is very tough to bring down. Williams has a thick build and is dangerous in space, where he can change direction or bounce off a defender and maintain balance with good lateral agility. He's not a thumper between the tackles. The Panthers intend to use Tolbert as a fullback. He faces up defenders and is a stout blocker but also is a battering ram with the ball in his hands on the goal line or in short-yardage situations. Tolbert doesn't have breakaway speed but can make plays as a receiver.

RECEIVERS

Now that he has a quarterback capable of getting the ball to him down the field, WR Steve Smith is showing he has plenty left in the tank. An intense, hardworking competitor, Smith is undersized, but he has vertical speed, makes tough catches in a crowd and has good, soft hands. He adjusts to the ball over his shoulder and can track it and reel it in without breaking stride. Smith is also an unselfish blocker. The Panthers have a couple of options to play opposite Smith in possession receiver Brandon LaFell and the field-stretching David Gettis, who is returning after missing all of last season with an ACL tear. LaFell is fluid moving in and out of his breaks but lacks separation speed. Gettis showed in 2010, his rookie season, that he can take the top off a defense. He has great vertical speed and good size but is not a threat to break tackles. Tough, short-armed Kealoha Pilares and explosive, field-fast rookie Joe Adams will return kicks and play in the slot. After sharing TE duties with Jeremy Shockey last season, Greg Olsen could be targeted more frequently in 2012. He has a rare combination of size and speed and creates favorable matchups. Olsen isn't going to "wow" anyone with his blocking, though. TE Ben Hartsock functions exclusively as a blocker, and TE Gary Barnidge is a big target with the hands to contribute in the short-to-intermediate passing game.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 16	New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 20	N.Y. Giants	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Seattle	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 14	BYE	
Oct. 21	Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Washington	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	Denver	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 26	at Philadelphia	8:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at San Diego	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 23	Oakland	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at New Orleans	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Carolina

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At Arizona	(+7)	21-28
Sept. 18	Green Bay	(+10.5)	23-30
Sept. 25	Jacksonville	(-3.5)	16-10
Oct. 2	At Chicago	(+7)	29-34
Oct. 9	New Orleans	(+6.5)	27-30
Oct. 16	At Atlanta	(+3.5)	17-31
Oct. 23	Washington	(-2.5)	33-20
Oct. 30	Minnesota	(-3)	21-24
Nov. 6	BYE		
Nov. 13	Tennessee	(-3.5)	3-30
Nov. 20	At Detroit	(+7)	35-49
Nov. 27	At Indianapolis	(-3.5)	27-19
Dec. 4	At Tampa Bay	(-1)	38-19
Dec. 11	Atlanta	(+3)	23-31
Dec. 18	At Houston	(+5)	28-13
Dec. 24	Tampa Bay	(-7.5)	48-16
Jan. 1	At New Orleans	(+7)	17-45

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Coming off three consecutive Pro Bowl nods and his first appearance on the All-Pro team, Ryan Kalil is one of the league's more athletic centers. He's quick and effective with his hands. He can get pushed back by size, but Kalil is a smart, aware, savvy, hardworking technician. Jordan Gross has a similar makeup and is a quality left tackle. Like Kalil, he doesn't have ideal anchor strength, but Gross can shuffle and mirror against speed rushers and allowed only 3½ sacks in 2011, according to STATS LLC. Carolina is hoping that 2008 first-round pick Jeff Otah, who has played in 29 games in four seasons, and only four in the past two, can beat the injury bug and return to man the ORT position, where he served as a mauler in the team's power running game earlier in his career. ORG-C Geoff Hangartner is a competitive, solid starter with a solid base and good feet. The left guard spot could be manned by quick, powerful Amini Silatolu, a raw rookie who dominated small-school competition at Midwestern State. Former Colts OG-C Mike Pollak, who fizzled out in Indianapolis, could compete at left guard and be a serviceable backup. Carolina likes OG-OT Garry Williams' competitiveness and is intrigued by OT Bruce Campbell's rare athleticism. OT-OG Byron Bell is well-built but can be exposed vs. speed.

DEFENSE

Injuries to a few key players certainly played a role in it, but that was not the only cause of the Panthers' poor defensive showing last season. The Panthers need to get better at every level of the defense — they gave up the most points, yards and passing yards in the club's 17-year history last season — and head coach Ron Rivera has vowed to take on a greater role in managing the defense, which is coordinated by Sean McDermott. The Panthers operate out of a 4-3 base, although Rivera has said he believes there is a place for some 3-4 looks.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DRE Charles Johnson has accounted for one-third (20½) of the team's 62 sacks since he first became a full-time starter at the start of the 2010 season. He shows some stiffness and is not an elite athlete, but Johnson is relentless in pursuit, has good short-area burst, stays low to gain leverage and shows good strength and balance. DLE

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@ARIZ.**	**G.B.**	**JAX.**	**@CHI.**	**N.O.**	**@ATL.**	**WASH.**	**MINN.**	**TEN.**	**@DET.**	**@IND.**	**@T.B.**	**ATL.**	**@HOU.**	**T.B.**	**@N.O.**	
Score	21-28	23-30	16-10	29-34	27-30	17-31	33-20	21-24	3-30	35-49	27-19	38-19	23-31	28-13	48-16	17-45	
Total net yards	477	475	265	543	381	368	407	405	279	409	377	385	416	316	433	301	6237
Rushing yards	74	71	107	169	162	139	175	140	113	137	201	163	157	166	270	164	2408
Passing yards	403	404	158	374	219	229	232	265	166	272	176	222	259	150	163	137	3829
Rushing plays	27	21	28	26	22	26	37	27	19	26	35	39	23	34	31	24	445
Sacks allowed	4	4	0	0	1	1	4	3	5	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	35
Had intercepted	1	3	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	17
Fumbles lost	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
Yards penalized	74	50	69	52	65	85	105	60	99	70	92	20	50	40	77	5	1013
Punts	7	2	8	2	3	2	3	4	8	3	4	3	6	5	2	4	66
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	27:13	27:26	30:26	26:31	34:40	30:34	24:30	32:05	32:36	33:07	23:43	27:19	30:43	27:26	32:57	34:34	29:44
Total net yards	394	419	257	317	444	325	353	361	383	495	323	285	394	358	317	617	6042
Rushing yards	99	124	128	224	101	166	92	132	172	169	105	78	86	150	59	208	2093
Passing yards	295	295	129	93	343	159	261	229	211	326	218	207	308	208	258	409	3949
Rushing plays	25	21	34	31	28	35	23	33	35	29	23	27	28	25	19	35	451
Sacks allowed	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	4	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	0	31
Had intercepted	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	14
Fumbles lost	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	10
Yards penalized	61	57	60	45	82	57	26	43	92	56	15	73	50	60	64	60	901
Punts	5	3	6	4	2	3	1	4	5	2	5	2	6	2	1	1	52
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *																	
RUSHING																	
Brockel														1-7-1	2-5-0		3-12-1
Felton			1-3-0				2-7-0										3-10-0
Newton	8-18-1	10-53-1	7-27-0	8-35-2	7-27-1	7-47-1	10-59-1	6-53-0	7-55-0	7-37-2	9-53-1	14-54-3	7-36-0	7-55-0	6-65-1	6-32-0	126-706-14
S. Smith							1-6-0	1-12-0		1-5-0	1-9-0				1-23-0	1-1-0	6-56-0
Stewart	7-26-0	6-5-0	10-59-0	8-52-0	6-20-0	7-48-1	14-68-1	13-49-0	4-23-0	8-22-0	10-70-0	14-80-1	8-29-0	11-43-0	7-88-0	9-79-1	142-761-4
Vaughan															7-24-0		7-24-0
D. Williams	12-30-0	5-13-0	10-18-0	10-82-0	9-115-1	12-44-0	10-35-0	7-26-0	8-35-0	10-73-0	15-69-2	11-29-0	7-87-1	15-61-1	7-66-2	7-53-0	155-836-7
PASSING **																	
Newton	24-37-1 422-2	28-46-3 432-1	18-34-0 158-1	27-46-1 374-1	16-31-1 224-2	21-35-3 237-0	18-23-0 256-1	22-35-0 290-3	23-40-1 212-0	22-38-4 280-1	20-27-0 208-0	12-21-0 204-1	19-39-2 276-2	13-23-0 149-2	12-17-0 171-3	15-25-1 158-1	310-517-17 4051-21
RECEIVING																	
Brockel										1-5-0				1-4-0	1-4-0		3-13-0
Felton					1-7-0		1-17-0										2-24-0
Goodson	1-4-0																1-4-0
LaFell	4-70-0	4-49-1		4-42-0	1-20-0	1-12-0	2-39-1	1-44-0	1-18-0	3-51-0	5-46-0	3-64-0	2-28-0		3-103-1	2-27-0	36-613-3
Naanee	1-21-0	2-14-0	1-13-0	4-27-0	4-63-0	2-31-0	3-21-0	5-49-0	8-75-0	3-41-0	3-17-0	2-38-1	2-29-0	2-16-0	2-12-0		44-467-1
Newton												1-27-0					1-27-0
Olsen	4-78-0	1-34-0	7-57-1	5-50-1	3-21-1	5-42-0	1-4-0	4-73-1	4-45-0	3-23-0	3-24-0	1-21-0	2-53-1	2-15-0			45-540-5
Shockey	3-51-0	3-56-0	3-30-0	2-41-0	3-21-0	4-60-0	4-32-0	1-1-1	1-19-0		3-41-0	1-26-0	2-10-1	2-35-1	2-14-1	3-18-0	37-455-4
S. Smith	8-178-2	6-156-0	2-15-0	8-181-0	3-79-1	5-66-0	7-143-0	7-100-1	5-33-0	5-41-1	3-68-0	2-32-0	6-125-0	5-82-1	1-9-0	6-86-1	79-1394-7
Stewart	2-14-0	8-100-0	3-26-0	4-33-0	1-13-0	3-24-0		2-10-0	4-22-0	6-87-0	3-12-0	2-19-0	4-27-0	2-8-0	1-11-1	2-7-0	47-413-1
D. Williams	1-6-0	4-23-0	2-17-0			1-2-0		2-13-0		1-32-0			1-4-0		2-18-0	2-20-0	16-135-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

Greg Hardy showed flashes in his first season as a starter. He has a great combination of size, athleticism and power but disappears too often and could be pushed by long-armed, high-motor rookie Frank Alexander, who lacks anchor strength. Head coach Ron Rivera has quite a few tweeners at defensive end. He brought Antwan Applewhite along with him from San Diego last season, and Rivera likes his versatility and pass-rush ability. DE Thomas Keiser, who made four sacks in the final eight games of last season, doesn't have great size or strength to anchor as a base end but has good quickness and closing speed. Another ex-Charger, Jyles Tucker, will battle for a reserve spot. On the interior, Carolina's two third-round picks last year, NT Sione Fua and DT Terrell McClain, both landed on injured reserve in December. They were getting turned too often and didn't provide much rush. Sturdy veteran Ron Edwards could contend for the starting job at nose tackle after missing all of last season with a torn triceps, and Frank Kearse, who has great size to hold the point, will contend for reps at the position. Andre Neblett will back up at three-technique.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Luke Kuechly	MLB	Boston College	9
2	Amini Silatolu	OG	Midwestern St. (Texas)	40
4	Frank Alexander	DE	Oklahoma	103
4	Joe Adams	WR-RS	Arkansas	104
5	Josh Norman	CB	Coastal Carolina	143
6	Brad Nortman	P	Wisconsin	207
7	D.J. Campbell	FS	California	216

L. KUECHLY

LINEBACKERS

Jon Beason had started every Panthers game since he entered the league in 2007 before tearing his Achilles at Arizona in Week One last season. Carolina badly missed his ability to set the tone, attack vs. the run and disrupt in coverage, and the Panthers are expecting him to return strong. He could slide to the weak side to clear the middle for smart, quick-footed first-round pick Luke Kuechly, who has great instincts and was exceptionally productive at Boston College. Thomas Davis was really settling in at outside linebacker before a terrible string of bad luck began taking its toll. Since Week Nine of the '09 season, Davis has torn his right ACL three times — most recently in Week Two last season — and has played in only nine games over the past three seasons. The Panthers love his attitude and desire to get back on the field, and they restructured his contract to give him another shot this offseason. SLB James Anderson was active and highly productive in the absence of his two fellow 'backers last season. He has great range and speed, but he's not instinctive and tends to overanalyze. WLB Jordan Senn gained some starting experience last season but fits best as a backup and special-teamer.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

LCB Chris Gamble bounced back from a rough 2010 season and is an instinctive veteran with good size and quickness to shadow, although he's still capable of getting burned when he gambles or loses focus. S Charles Godfrey was among several core Panthers players who signed contract extensions last year, and the team likes his toughness, speed, versatility and open-field tackling ability. He can be beat deep and lacks speed to recover. There is at least the potential for competition at the other starting spots at corner and safety. Feisty, undersized Captain Munnerlyn started at right corner opposite Gamble last season but is ideally suited to play nickel back. The naturally athletic Darius Butler, who struggles to match up against size and physicality, played nickel last season. Second-year CB Brandon Hogan, who started last season on the physically-unable-to-perform list, has starter-caliber traits, and sloppy-tackling rookie Josh Norman has the size, length and confidence to earn a spot. S Sherrod Martin is not a very

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	89 S. SMITH	81 Pilares	14 A. Edwards	
OLT	69 GROSS	65 G. Williams	73 B. Campbell	
OLG	61 SILATOLU*	74 Pollak		
C	67 KALIL	62 Byers	64 Z. Williams	
ORG	63 HANGARTNER	60 Browning		
ORT	79 OTAH	77 Bell	75 Ziemba	
TE	88 OLSEN	84 Hartsock	82 Barnidge	
WR	11 LaFELL	12 Gettis	15 J. Adams*	
QB	1 NEWTON	3 D. Anderson	2 Clausen	
RB	34 D. WILLIAMS	28 Stewart	35 Tolbert	
FB	35 TOLBERT			
DEFENSE				
DLE	76 HARDY	90 Alexander*	98 Keiser	
DT	97 McCLAIN	68 Neblett	78 Nwagbuo	
NT	96 R. EDWARDS	94 Fua	99 Kearse	
DRE	95 JOHNSON	93 Applewhite	55 Tucker	
SLB	58 DAVIS	50 J. Anderson	91 Wilson	
MLB	59 KUECHLY*	53 Phillips		
WLB	52 BEASON	50 J. Anderson	57 Senn	
LCB	20 GAMBLE	27 Butler	25 Stanford	
RCB	41 MUNNERLYN	21 Hogan	24 Norman*	
SS	23 MARTIN	43 Nakamura	31 R. Smith	
FS	30 GODFREY	29 Pugh	26 D. Campbell*	
SPECIALISTS				
P	8 NORTMAN*			
PK	10 MARE	7 Medlock		
H	8 NORTMAN*			
PR	15 J. ADAMS	14 A. Edwards		
KR	81 PILARES			
LS	44 JANSEN			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Warren Belin, linebackers; Ray Brown, asst. offensive line; Rob Chudzinski, offensive coordinator; Fred Graves, wide receivers; Pete Hoener, tight ends; Joe Kenn, strength and conditioning; John Matsko, offensive line; Sean McDermott, defensive coordinator; Sam Mills III, defensive quality control/asst. defensive line; Brian Murphy, special-teams coordinator; Ricky Proehl, offensive consultant; Ron Rivera, head coach; Richard Rodgers, asst. special teams; John Settle, running backs; Mike Shula, quarterbacks; Scott Turner, offensive quality control; Eric Washington, defensive line; Steve Wilks, secondary/passing-defense coordinator.

imposing presence, but he has started all 31 games in which he has played the past two seasons. He could face a challenge from ex-Ravens special-teams ace Haruki Nakamura, who is a willing run supporter and very tough but a potential liability in coverage, whereas Martin has more fluidity. Jordan Pugh and Reggie Smith will back up at safety and contribute on special teams.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Panthers have made some significant changes to their special-teams units, which were among the league's least impressive in 2011. Free-agent additions Kenny Onatolu, Haruki Nakamura and Mike Tolbert could provide a big upgrade in coverage. Olindo Mare, who will be 39 years old this season, faces a challenge from Justin Medlock, a fifth-round pick of the Chiefs in 2007, for the placekicking duties. Mare, who also kicks off, can be erratic. He matched a career high by missing three field goals from 30-39 yards last season, and while he shows substantial leg strength on kickoffs (64.9-yard average), Mare lacks long accuracy. Medlock, who signed a three-year deal with the club, has been out of the league since 2010 and spent time in the CFL and UFL. He is looking to prove he's a more reliable option from long range. Carolina drafted strong-legged Brad Nortman to replace Jason Baker at punter. Nortman could stand to improve his delivery quickness. WR-KR Kealoha Pilares has build-up speed and shows a second gear in the open field. Dynamic rookie Joe Adams could provide an instant spark on punt returns — he's elusive and has outstanding burst — and his arrival puts more pressure on ineffective WR-PR Armanti Edwards, who gained only 5.5 yards per return last season.

SUMMARY

The defense is going to have to tighten up significantly, and Cam Newton has to step up and make sure his teammates don't get caught up in the hype about what they are capable of doing on offense. If they stay focused, the Panthers could find themselves in the thick of the playoff hunt.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
86	Adams, Darvin	WR	6-2	194	2	Auburn	2/0
15	Adams, Joe	WR	5-11	181	R	Arkansas	
19	Ajirotutu, Seyi	WR	6-3	211	3	Fresno State	14/0
90	Alexander, Frank	DE	6-4	271	R	Oklahoma	
66	Allen, Roger	OG	6-3	323	3	Missouri Western St.	0/0
3	Anderson, Derek	QB	6-6	235	8	Oregon State	2/0
50	Anderson, James	LB	6-2	235	7	Virginia Tech	16/16
93	Applewhite, Antwan	DE	6-3	258	5	San Diego State	12/1
82	Barnidge, Gary	TE	6-5	247	5	Louisville	0/0
52	Beason, Jon	LB	6-0	237	6	Miami (Fla.)	1/1
77	Bell, Byron	OG-OT	6-5	339	2	New Mexico	16/12
5	Bersin, Brenton	WR	6-3	210	R	Wofford (S.C.)	
72	Blackwell, Will	OG	6-3	310	R	LSU	
47	Brockel, Richie	TE	6-1	251	2	Boise State	11/2
60	Browning, Bryant	OG	6-4	312	1	Ohio State	1/0
27	Butler, Darius	CB	5-10	190	4	Connecticut	13/6
62	Byers, Jeff	C	6-4	301	1	USC	0/0
73	Campbell, Bruce	OT	6-6	315	3	Maryland	4/0
26	Campbell, D.J.	S	6-0	200	R	California	
66	Chandler, Nate	DT	6-4	294	R	UCLA	
2	Clausen, Jimmy	QB	6-2	222	3	Notre Dame	0/0
58	Davis, Thomas	LB	6-1	240	8	Georgia	2/2
46	Dillard, Phillip	LB	6-0	252	2	Nebraska	0/0
14	Edwards, Armanti	WR	5-11	182	3	Appalachian State	16/0
96	Edwards, Ron	DT	6-3	315	12	Texas A&M	0/0
94	Fua, Sione	DT	6-1	310	2	Stanford	11/11
20	Gamble, Chris	CB	6-1	200	9	Ohio State	15/15
12	Gettis, David	WR	6-3	216	3	Baylor	0/0
30	Godfrey, Charles	S	5-11	205	5	Iowa	14/14
9	Green, Jared	WR	6-1	188	R	Southern	
69	Gross, Jordan	OT	6-4	305	10	Utah	15/15
63	Hangartner, Geoff	C	6-5	297	8	Texas A&M	16/16
76	Hardy, Greg	DE	6-4	277	3	Mississippi	16/16
84	Hartsock, Ben	TE	6-4	270	9	Ohio State	15/2
21	Hogan, Brandon	CB	5-10	190	2	West Virginia	3/0
44	Jansen, J.J.	LS	6-2	256	5	Notre Dame	16/0
95	Johnson, Charles	DE	6-2	275	6	Georgia	15/15
67	Kalil, Ryan	C	6-2	295	6	USC	16/16
99	Kearse, Frank	DT	6-5	325	2	Alabama A&M	6/4
98	Keiser, Thomas	DE	6-3	261	2	Stanford	8/0
17	Kemp, Wes	WR	6-3	223	R	Missouri	
59	Kuechly, Luke	LB	6-3	242	R	Boston College	
11	LaFell, Brandon	WR	6-2	211	3	LSU	16/6
49	Lloyd, Tarren	TE	6-6	256	R	Utah State	
18	Manno, Chris	WR	6-1	196	1	Hofstra	0/0
10	Mare, Olindo	PK	5-11	192	16	Syracuse	16/0
23	Martin, Sherrod	S	6-1	198	4	Troy	16/16
39	McCarty, Princeton	RB	5-7	197	R	Idaho	
97	McClain, Terrell	DT	6-2	291	2	South Florida	12/12
7	Medlock, Justin	PK	5-11	201	1	UCLA	0/0
41	Munnerlyn, Captain	CB	5-8	186	4	South Carolina	14/14
43	Nakamura, Haruki	S	5-10	200	5	Cincinnati	15/0
68	Neblett, Andre	DT	6-0	295	3	Temple	12/4
37	Nelson, Jonathan	S	5-11	195	1	Oklahoma	2/1
1	Newton, Cam	QB	6-5	244	2	Auburn	16/16
24	Norman, Josh	CB	6-0	190	R	Coastal Carolina	
8	Nortman, Brad	P	6-2	209	R	Wisconsin	
92	Norwood, Eric	DE	6-1	241	3	South Carolina	13/0
78	Nwagbuo, Ogemdi	DT	6-4	312	4	Michigan State	8/1
88	Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	255	6	Miami (Fla.)	16/13
56	Onatolu, Kenny	LB	6-2	225	4	Nebraska-Omaha	16/1
79	Otah, Jeff	OT	6-6	330	5	Pittsburgh	4/4
53	Phillips, Jason	LB	6-1	242	4	TCU	4/0
81	Pilares, Kealoha	WR	5-10	201	2	Hawaii	12/0
74	Pollak, Mike	OG	6-3	301	5	Arizona State	15/8
33	Poole, Tauren	RB	5-10	209	R	Tennessee	
29	Pugh, Jordan	S	5-11	196	3	Texas A&M	12/1
70	Reynolds, Matt	OT	6-4	305	R	Brigham Young	
38	Rowells, Lyndon	RB	5-9	207	R	Humboldt State (Calif.)	
57	Senn, Jordan	LB	5-11	224	5	Portland State	16/7
71	Shirley, Jason	DT	6-5	345	2	Fresno State	4/0
61	Silatolu, Amini	OG	6-4	314	R	Midwestern St. (Texas)	
85	Smith, Greg	TE	6-4	245	1	Texas	0/0
31	Smith, Reggie	S	6-1	200	5	Oklahoma	16/0
89	Smith, Steve	WR	5-9	185	12	Utah	16/16
25	Stanford, R.J.	CB	5-10	183	2	Utah	12/0
28	Stewart, Jonathan	RB	5-10	235	5	Oregon	16/3
36	Sullivan, Reggie	S	6-2	210	1	Johnson C. Smith (N.C.)	0/0
22	Thomas, Josh	CB	5-11	188	2	Buffalo	9/0
35	Tolbert, Mike	FB	5-9	243	5	Coastal Carolina	15/1
55	Tucker, Jyles	DE	6-3	258	5	Wake Forest	0/0
72	Van Bergen, Ryan	DE	6-4	290	R	Michigan	
32	Vaughan, Josh	RB	6-0	232	2	Richmond	7/0
4	Wallace, Rico	WR	6-3	208	R	Shenandoah (Va.)	
34	Williams, DeAngelo	RB	5-9	217	7	Memphis	16/14
65	Williams, Garry	OT	6-3	296	4	Kentucky	0/0
54	Williams, Jason	LB	6-1	244	4	Western Illinois	14/2
64	Williams, Zack	OL	6-3	304	2	Washington State	0/0
91	Wilson, Kion	LB	6-0	240	3	South Florida	5/0
75	Ziemba, Lee	OT	6-6	318	2	Auburn	6/0

TAMPA BAY 4 Buccaneers

2012 PREDICTION: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*
2011 RECORD: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC SOUTH)*

TEAM PROFILE

G. SCHIANO

HEAD COACH: Greg Schiano
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Sullivan
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Bill Sheridan
OWNER: Malcolm Glazer
STADIUM: Raymond James | **CAPACITY:** 65,657
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.buccaneers.com

Hitting the reset button was essential for the Buccaneers to clean up the mess left behind from the 2011 season. A 10-game losing streak, during which Tampa Bay was consistently blown out, led to the dismissal of Raheem Morris — who, only one season earlier, was a Coach of the Year candidate following the Bucs' 10-win season.

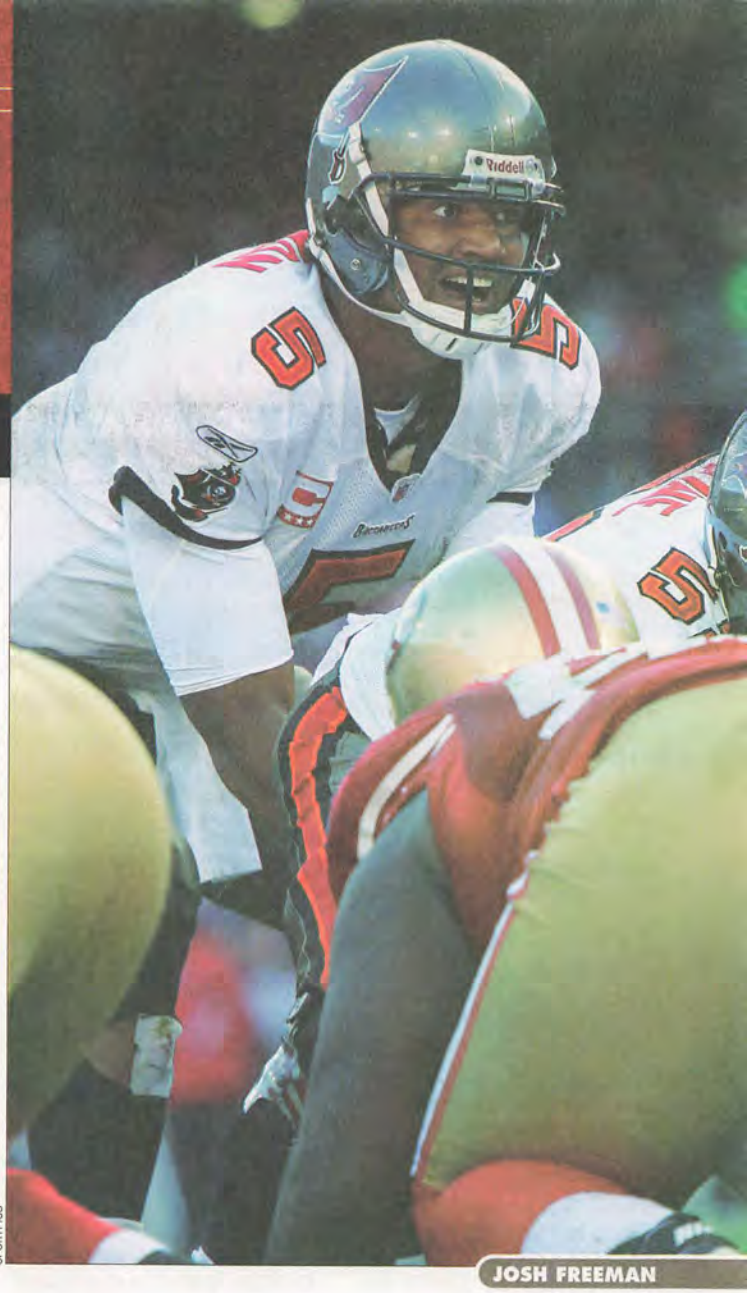
GM Mark Dominik set out to find a head coach capable of restoring order and discipline to a young roster he built, and his search led him to the college ranks. Target No. 1, Oregon's Chip Kelly, turned down the opportunity, but, after 11 seasons at Rutgers, Greg Schiano was willing to make the leap to the pros when the Bucs came calling.

He will have some new and expensive toys to utilize. After being spectators in free agency for the last couple of years, Dominik was given the green light to spend big — and he did, reeling in WR Vincent Jackson, OG Carl Nicks and CB Eric Wright in the first days of free agency.

While resuscitating a defense that set a franchise record for most points allowed last season will be critical, no task of Schiano's will be more important than getting Josh Freeman back on track after the young quarterback took a major step back in 2011.

In a division featuring Drew Brees, Cam Newton and Matt Ryan, the Bucs still have confidence that Freeman can develop into a top-tier QB.

They will face some very difficult decisions in the offseason if Freeman doesn't bounce back strong.


SPORTPICS

JOSH FREEMAN

OFFENSE

Under Greg Schiano, the Bucs are working to establish an offensive identity built on a physical, power running game. They want a vertical passing game that can pick up yards in big chunks, too, but the rushing attack will be used to set the table for QB Josh Freeman to go to work. First-time coordinator Mike Sullivan spent the past two seasons as the Giants' quarterbacks coach after coaching wide receivers for the six seasons prior. He'll be calling plays for the first time and will be able to consult with longtime coach Jimmy Raye, who has 34 seasons of NFL experience and was hired this offseason as the Bucs' senior offensive assistant.

▶ QUARTERBACKS

Three seasons into his career, Josh Freeman has some big questions to answer. Freeman has a rare combination of size, arm strength and mobility, but a standout second season and a coaching staff that allowed players to become complacent might have led him to get a bit overconfident in 2011. After turning the ball over only nine times in '10, Freeman became reckless, making 27 turnovers (his 22 interceptions were the second-most in the league) last season. He's only 24 years old, though. If the game slows down for him and he shows maturity and makes better decisions with the ball, last season could go down as an anomaly. He's a hardworking player who still has much to prove. Dan Orlovsky, who was coached by new Bucs quarterbacks coach Ron Turner when the two were in Indianapolis last season, was signed in the offseason to replace Josh Johnson as

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

WR Vincent Jackson, OG Carl Nicks, DT Amobi Okoye, QB Dan Orlovsky, CB Eric Wright.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

DE Tim Crowder, C Jeff Faine, OLB Geno Hayes, FS Tanard Jackson, QB Josh Johnson.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
QB Josh Freeman

DEFENSIVE MVP
DT Gerald McCoy

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
DE Da'Quan Bowers

POSITION BATTLE
DLE: Michael Bennett vs. Da'Quan Bowers

J. FREEMAN

G. McCOY

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	C	B-	B	C+	C-	C+	B-

Freeman's top backup. Turner recommended the strong-armed, intelligent Orlovsky, who made five of his 12 career starts last season, to the Bucs. Brett Ratliff, who was out of the league for much of 2011, is the third-stringer.

RUNNING BACKS

Hard-charging first-round pick Doug Martin is the starting-caliber, complete back capable of leading the smashmouth running game Greg Schiano wants to establish after the Bucs ranked 30th in rushing yards last season. Martin is well-built. He has good hands and is an aggressive, solid pass protector. RB LeGarrette Blount will compete for early-down reps. He can make some highlight-reel plays where he rumbles through defenders, breaking tackles and racking up yards after contact. He has great athleticism for his size. There is a reason he went undrafted in 2010, though. Blount can be short-circuited and does best when his assignments are kept simple. He's doesn't show good awareness as a receiver or blocker and is immature. Rookie Michael Smith is fast, although he builds to top speed, and has soft hands to contribute on third downs. An undrafted free agent in 2011, Mossis Madu is an undersized, shifty back with good vision. The Bucs use a converted college defensive end, Erik Lorig, at fullback. He has a high motor and good size and strength but lacks agility.

RECEIVERS

The Bucs tied for the fifth-fewest passing plays of 20 yards or longer last season (37). Their offense needed a dose of explosiveness at wide receiver, and the Bucs injected a big one into the receiving corps with the signing of ex-Chargers WR Vincent Jackson. He's a field-stretching big-play threat and one of the league's best deep receivers. Jackson has great size and length. He does disappear at times, however, and is not very dangerous after the catch. Jackson works hard and takes the game seriously. His arrival really could help WRs Mike Williams and Arrelious Benn. Williams is a solid possession receiver and won't have to face as many double-teams, which gave him problems, with Jackson in the mix. Benn has good hands and is a powerful runner after the catch. Quick-twitch slot receiver Preston Parker doesn't have vertical speed but can make plays in traffic. Dezmon Briscoe has the size, frame and hands to factor as a possession receiver. At tight end, Kellen Winslow has been one of Josh Freeman's go-to guys. Winslow deals with a chronic knee condition but hasn't missed a game since the start of the 2009 season. His size, athleticism and soft hands make him a very capable short-to-intermediate option. With the team strengthening its commitment to a power running game, 2011 fourth-round pick Luke Stocker, a tough, solid all-around tight end, figures to be more involved. Seventh-round rookie Drake Dunsmore lacks ideal size for a tight end but has good enough hands to contribute as an H-back.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Taking a page — and a player (OLG Carl Nicks) — out of the division-rival Saints' book, the Bucs' offensive line is built to dominate the interior. Nicks, who has been named to All-Pro teams the past two seasons, was signed from the Saints in free agency and is arguably the league's top guard. Pairing Nicks — who has rare athleticism for his tremendous size — with ORG Davin Joseph gives the Bucs the league's best guard tandem. Joseph doesn't match Nicks in terms of size, but Joseph, like Nicks, has strong, powerful hands, outstanding arm length and rare agility for his position. Jeremy Zuttah, who has played guard and center in the past, will make center, which is probably his more natural position, his full-time home in 2012. The strong, athletic Zuttah played for Greg Schiano at Rutgers. Ted Larsen provides depth on the interior and can fill in at guard or center. At left tackle, Donald Penn is coming off a down year. He struggles one-on-one vs. good speed, and managing his weight has been an issue for him in each of the past two seasons. Tall, long-armed ORT Jeremy Trueblood also needs help vs. quick, athletic pass rushers and is only serviceable.

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Carolina	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 16	at NY Giants	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	Washington	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 7	BYE	
Oct. 14	Kansas City	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Minnesota	8:20 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Oakland	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 11	San Diego	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	at Carolina	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Denver	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 9	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Atlanta	1:00 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Tampa Bay

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Detroit	(-1.5)	20-27
Sept. 18	At Minnesota	(+1)	24-20
Sept. 25	Atlanta	(-1)	16-13
Oct. 3	Indianapolis	(-10)	24-17
Oct. 9	At San Francisco	(+3)	3-48
Oct. 16	New Orleans	(+6.5)	26-20
Oct. 23	Chicago	(+1.5)	18-24
Oct. 30	BYE		
Nov. 6	At New Orleans	(+8.5)	16-27
Nov. 13	Houston	(+3.5)	9-37
Nov. 20	At Green Bay	(+14)	26-35
Nov. 27	At Tennessee	(+3)	17-23
Dec. 4	Carolina	(+1)	19-38
Dec. 11	At Jacksonville	(-3)	14-41
Dec. 17	Dallas	(+7.5)	15-31
Dec. 24	At Carolina	(+7.5)	16-48
Jan. 1	At Atlanta	(+10)	24-45

DEFENSE

Stout defense was a trademark for the Buccaneers during the glory days of Monte Kiffin's Tampa-2 scheme, with star players like Derrick Brooks, Warren Sapp and John Lynch leading the way. That wasn't the case for the 2011 Bucs, who set a franchise record for points allowed, giving up 40 or more points four times. Tampa Bay not only led the league in points allowed, it also finished last in sacks. This group has a lot of catching up to do. Coordinator Bill Sheridan and Butch Davis, the special assistant to Greg Schiano, were hired this offseason, but Schiano, who came up through the ranks as a defensive assistant, will dictate the scheme and philosophy.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Rebuilding up front on defense has been a top priority for GM Mark Dominik in the draft. He spent his first two picks on defensive tackles in 2010 and doubled down on defensive ends with his first two selections in '11. It's brimming with promise, but the crown jewel of those two Bucs draft classes, Gerald McCoy — the third overall pick in 2010 — has been sidetracked by injuries, suffering biceps tears in each of his first two seasons. McCoy, who plays the three-

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

OPPONENT	WK 1 DET.	WK 2 @MINN.	WK 3 ATL.	WK 4 IND.	WK 5 @S.F.	WK 6 N.O.	WK 7 CHI.	WK 9 @N.O.	WK 10 HOU.	WK 11 @G.B.	WK 12 @TEN.	WK 13 CAR.	WK 14 @JAX.	WK 15 DALL.	WK 16 @CAR.	WK 17 @ATL.	TOTALS
Score	20-27	24-20	16-13	24-17	3-48	26-20	18-24	16-27	9-37	26-35	17-23	19-38	14-41	15-31	16-48	24-45	
Total net yards	315	335	295	466	272	420	280	365	231	455	308	285	280	190	317	294	5108
Rushing yards	56	105	115	192	86	117	30	84	90	121	122	78	110	58	59	35	1458
Passing yards	259	230	180	274	186	303	250	281	141	334	186	207	170	132	258	259	3650
Rushing plays	16	19	36	36	23	25	11	20	18	20	25	27	24	13	19	14	346
Sacks allowed	2	2	0	2	3	0	1	1	4	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	32
Had intercepted	1	1	2	0	2	0	4	0	3	2	1	1	3	0	1	3	24
Fumbles lost	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	4	1	3	1	16
Yards penalized	39	53	66	106	96	64	69	80	49	55	30	73	97	46	64	20	1007
Punts	5	4	3	5	6	4	8	3	6	3	5	2	5	4	1	3	67

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	36:25	33:30	24:08	21:00	31:03	28:33	33:12	30:04	35:06	28:39	33:23	32:41	32:49	37:59	27:03	30:08	30:56
Total net yards	431	398	325	318	418	453	395	453	420	378	352	385	325	399	433	428	6311
Rushing yards	126	186	30	62	213	70	177	195	185	91	202	163	116	160	270	251	2497
Passing yards	305	212	295	256	205	383	218	258	235	287	150	222	209	239	163	177	3814
Rushing plays	35	33	15	18	36	20	33	28	44	23	35	39	33	37	31	38	498
Sacks allowed	0	2	4	4	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	23
Had intercepted	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	14
Fumbles lost	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	10
Yards penalized	68	65	50	50	30	53	54	63	54	37	50	20	80	15	77	20	786
Punts	5	4	3	6	1	4	6	2	4	3	3	3	7	3	2	2	58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Blount	5-15-0	13-71-2	24-81-0	25-127-1	10-34-0			13-72-0	10-34-0	18-107-1	20-103-0	11-19-0	18-74-1	9-21-0	2-11-0	6-12-0	184-781-5
Freeman	4-26-0	3-16-0	10-35-1	6-27-1	1-2-0	4-3-0		3-8-0	3-25-0	1-5-0	3-10-0		4-26-1	4-37-0	6-4-1	3-14-0	55-238-4
Graham	6-13-0	3-18-0	2-(-1)-0	2-24-0	5-30-0	17-109-0	2-13-0										37-206-0
J. Johnson	1-2-0			1-8-0				1-1-0	1-0-0		1-6-0	5-45-0				1-5-0	11-67-0
Lumpkin					2-7-0	2-13-0	8-15-0	2-7-0	4-31-0		1-3-0	2-1-0	1-4-0		7-24-0	2-0-0	31-105-0
Madu												8-25-0	1-6-0		4-20-0	2-4-0	15-55-0

PASSING **

Freeman	28-43-1 259-1	22-31-1 243-1	22-32-2 180-0	25-39-0 287-1	17-33-2 187-0	23-41-0 303-2	29-51-4 264-2	27-37-0 281-1	15-33-3 170-1	28-38-2 342-2	18-33-1 199-1		16-30-2 181-0	17-27-0 148-1	28-38-1 274-1	31-45-3 274-2	346-551-22 3592-16
J. Johnson	1-3-0 7-0				1-2-0 7-0				0-2-0 0-0			16-27-1 229-1	1-2-1 3-0				19-36-2 246-1

RECEIVING

Benn	4-27-0	1-25-1	3-19-0	1-43-0	3-46-0	3-83-1		2-22-0	2-47-0	5-75-0	1-(-3)-0	3-46-0	1-7-0		1-4-1		30-441-3
Blount			1-13-0	1-14-0	2-31-0			2-8-0	1-0-0	1-6-0	3-56-0		1-6-0			3-14-0	15-148-0
Briscoe	2-14-0	4-42-0			2-18-0	2-49-0	6-73-1	1-46-0		2-7-1		1-23-1	3-20-0	3-36-1	1-6-0	8-53-2	35-387-6
Graham	8-58-0	5-21-0	7-37-0	3-27-0		2-22-0	1-(-2)-0										26-163-0
Lumpkin	1-9-0		1-4-0	3-25-0	1-4-0		6-37-0	4-31-0	5-30-0	1-8-0	3-10-0		2-18-0	5-50-0	4-38-0	5-27-0	41-291-0
Madu													1-3-0	2-8-0	4-42-0	3-19-0	10-72-0
Parker	4-44-0	6-98-0	1-11-0	5-70-1	1-13-0	2-32-1	4-42-0	3-56-0	2-17-1	1-20-0		3-26-0	3-35-0		1-16-0	4-74-0	40-554-3
Stocker		1-17-0	2-33-0	2-9-0			2-14-0			1-1-0				1-4-0	3-14-0		12-92-0
M. Williams	4-50-1	1-(-4)-0	5-43-0	5-66-0	4-28-0	6-59-0	6-75-0	6-46-0	2-43-0	7-83-1	6-84-1	5-93-0	3-35-0		4-39-0	1-31-0	65-771-3
Winslow	6-66-0	4-44-0	2-20-0	5-33-0	5-54-0	5-40-0	4-25-1	4-29-1	3-33-0	9-132-0	5-52-0	4-41-0	2-38-0	4-37-0	6-63-0	7-56-0	75-763-2

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

technique, can command a double-team when healthy and has the short-area quickness to knife into the backfield on a consistent basis. He was missed badly vs. the run last season and plays with power. Underachiever Amobi Okoye has great balance and agility — he will factor into the rotation and is best used in pass-rushing situations. NT Brian Price generates power, flips his hips and drives blockers backward. He's very tough, but his motor runs hot and cold. Backup DT Roy Miller doesn't have any physical traits that "wow" evaluators, and he's utilized best as a two-down gap plugger. Backup DTs Frank Okam and Gary Gibson will beef up the interior. Adrian Clayborn established himself as a disruptive right defensive end as a rookie last season, when he made a team-high 7½ sacks. He stacks blockers and has good power but lacks ideal arm length and burst. Michael Bennett and Da'Quan Bowers will both see time at left end. Bennett has great size and is slippery firing off the edge. Strong-handed and athletic, Bowers is the stouter of the two and can hold the point.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Mark Barron	SS	Alabama	7
1	Doug Martin	RB	Boise State	31
2	Lavonte David	WLB	Nebraska	58
5	Najee Goode	MLB	West Virginia	140
6	Keith Tandy	CB	West Virginia	174
7	Michael Smith	RB	Utah State	212
7	Drake Dunsmore	TE	Northwestern	233

M. BARRON

LINEBACKERS

Tampa Bay put a heavy burden on Mason Foster as a rookie last season, making him the starting middle linebacker and assigning him the radio helmet. Foster showed good instincts early in the season, but he faded down the stretch and was hampered by ankle injuries. He could fit best outside. The Bucs appear committed to keeping him in the middle, though. He has good size and toughness and is a dependable tackler. The Bucs have tried to make Quincy Black into a powerful strong-side linebacker, but he's not a thumper and didn't tackle well last season. He has good speed and burst and fits better as a run-and-chase weak-side 'backer, but that spot will likely be manned by intense, active Lavonte David, who has the instincts and competitiveness to earn a starting job as a rookie. Adam Hayward brings versatility and has the size and athleticism to play any of the three LB positions. Dekoda Watson is an intriguing talent, but he's not instinctive. He could be used as a specialist in blitz packages or line up with his hand in the dirt coming off the edge. Rookie Najee Goode is athletic and versatile enough to back up in the middle or on the weak side and become a core special-teamer.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

A glaring need on the roster was filled when the Bucs drafted physical SS Mark Barron seventh overall. He has the toughness and thick build to excel inside the box but also shows great instincts to play the run and the pass. Barron is not an elite athlete. He will stall in transition and is a bit tight-hipped. A smart player, Barron has leadership ability and can take the baton from CB Ronde Barber, who is still a dependable player that the Buccaneers' new coaching staff wanted to have back in the fold for a 16th season. Barber is a solid, willing run supporter and reads and diagnoses very well. He can plant quickly and jump routes and has good hands. However, he can be beat by top-end speed and physical receivers with good size. The Bucs have experimented with playing him at safety this offseason, but he fits best at corner and could move inside to the slot in nickel situations. The Bucs signed ex-Lions starter Eric Wright to start for them. He has had an up-and-down career, but his limitations are less glaring in a zone system. Wright is a fine athlete and has good range and closing speed, but he gets beat too often. Aqib Talib has been the Bucs' best playmaker in the secondary. He has a great

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	**19 WILLIAMS**	17 Benn	18 Stroughter
OLT	**70 PENN**	69 Dotson	79 Meredith
OLG	**77 NICKS**	62 Larsen	
C	**76 ZUTTAH**	62 Larsen	
ORG	**75 JOSEPH**	73 Hardman	
ORT	**65 TRUEBLOOD**	73 Hardman	
TE	**82 WINSLOW**	88 Stocker	81 Dunsmore*
WR	**83 JACKSON**	87 Parker	89 Briscoe
QB	**5 FREEMAN**	6 Orlovsky	7 Ratliff
RB	**22 MARTIN***	27 Blount	34 Smith*
FB	**44 LORIG**	81 Dunsmore*	
DEFENSE			
DLE	**91 BOWERS**	71 Bennett	50 Te'o-Nesheim
DT	**93 McCOY**	96 Okoye	98 Okam
NT	**92 PRICE**	90 Miller	Gibson
DRE	**94 CLAYBORN**	97 G. Johnson	
SLB	**58 Q. BLACK**	56 Watson	
MLB	**59 FOSTER**	52 Goode*	
WLB	**54 DAVID***	57 Hayward	52 Goode*
LCB	**20 BARBER**	25 Talib	23 Lewis
RCB	**21 WRIGHT**	37 Tandy*	31 Biggers
SS	**24 BARRON***	22 Asante	43 A. Black
FS	**35 GRIMM**	26 Girault	
SPECIALISTS			
P	**9 KOENEN**		
PK	**10 BARTH**	2 Forbath	
H	**9 KOENEN**		
PR	**87 PARKER**	18 Stroughter	
KR	**18 STROUGHTER**	87 Parker	
LS	**48 ECONOMOS**		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Brian Angelichio, tight ends; Bob Bostad, offensive line; Jay Butler, strength and conditioning; Earnest Byner, running backs; Ron Cooper, defensive backs; Bryan Cox, defensive front seven; P.J. Fleck, wide receivers; Bob Fraser, linebackers; Phil Galiano, asst. special teams; Jeff Hafley, asst. defensive backs; Bob Ligashesky, special-teams coordinator; Steve Loney, asst. offensive line; Tem Lukabu, defensive assistant; Kevin MacConnell, director of football operations; Ben McDaniels, offensive assistant; Randy Melvin, defensive line; Jimmy Raye, senior offensive assistant; Greg Schiano, head coach; Bill Sheridan, defensive coordinator; Mike Sullivan, offensive coordinator; Ron Turner, quarterbacks; Joe Vaughn, asst. strength and conditioning.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
	Anderson, Quintin	DE	6-5	280	R	Wagner	
22	Asante, Larry	S	6-0	210	2	Nebraska	10/0
	Baker, Sean	S	6-1	209	R	Ball State	
20	Barber, Ronde	CB	5-10	184	16	Virginia	16/16
24	Barron, Mark	S	6-1	213	R	Alabama	
10	Barth, Connor	PK	5-11	193	5	North Carolina	16/0
17	Benn, Arrelious	WR	6-2	220	3	Illinois	14/14
71	Bennett, Michael	DE	6-4	274	4	Texas A&M	14/10
31	Biggers, E.J.	CB	6-0	180	4	Western Michigan	16/6
43	Black, Ahmad	S	5-9	190	2	Florida	4/0
58	Black, Quincy	LB	6-2	240	6	New Mexico	14/12
27	Blount, LeGarrette	RB	6-0	247	3	Oregon	14/14
91	Bowers, Da'Quan	DE	6-4	280	2	Clemson	16/6
89	Briscoe, Dezmon	WR	6-2	210	2	Kansas	16/2
94	Clayborn, Adrian	DE	6-3	281	2	Iowa	16/16
46	Coffman, Chase	TE	6-6	250	3	Missouri	0/0
45	Curran, Rennie	LB	5-11	230	2	Georgia	0/0
	Curtis, De'Anthony	RB	5-9	211	R	Arkansas	
51	Cutrera, Jacob	LB	6-3	238	3	LSU	8/0
54	David, Lavonte	LB	6-1	233	R	Nebraska	
69	Dotson, Demar	OT	6-9	315	4	Southern Mississippi	13/2
81	Dunsmore, Drake	TE	6-3	235	R	Northwestern	
48	Economos, Andrew	LS	6-1	250	7	Georgia Tech	9/0
2	Forbath, Kai	PK	5-11	197	1	UCLA	0/0
59	Foster, Mason	LB	6-2	242	2	Washington	16/15
85	Franklin, Collin	TE	6-6	256	2	Iowa State	2/0
5	Freeman, Josh	QB	6-6	248	4	Kansas State	15/15
26	Gaitor, Anthony	DB	5-10	175	2	Florida International	8/0
15	Gant, Ed	WR	6-3	200	1	North Alabama	0/0
	Gibson, Gary	DT	6-3	312	7	Rutgers	16/1
52	Goode, Najee	LB	6-0	244	R	West Virginia	
35	Grimm, Cody	S	6-1	203	3	Virginia Tech	3/3
	Guthrie, Eric	P	6-6	245	R	Iowa	
73	Hardman, Derek	OT-OG	6-6	300	3	Eastern Kentucky	3/0
	Hardrick, Jermarcus	OT	6-7	320	R	Nebraska	
57	Hayward, Adam	LB	6-1	240	6	Portland State	16/2
30	Holland, Devin	S	6-0	205	2	McNeese State	4/0
28	Hughes, Robert	RB	5-11	235	1	Notre Dame	0/0
64	Ingersoll, Mike	OT	6-5	303	1	North Carolina	0/0
83	Jackson, Vincent	WR	6-5	230	8	Northern Colorado	16/16
	Jefferson, Jordan	QB	6-5	223	R	LSU	
38	Johnson, Cody	FB	5-11	252	R	Texas	
97	Johnson, George	DE	6-4	265	2	Rutgers	4/0
29	Johnson, Leonard	CB	5-10	202	R	Iowa State	
75	Joseph, Davin	OG	6-3	313	7	Oklahoma	16/16
9	Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	198	8	Western Washington	16/0
62	Larsen, Ted	C-OG	6-2	305	3	North Carolina State	16/3
	Leak, Antonio	FB	6-2	248	R	Henderson State	
23	Lewis, Myron	CB	6-2	203	3	Vanderbilt	10/0
44	Lorig, Erik	FB	6-4	275	3	Stanford	16/7
32	Madu, Mossis	RB	6-0	197	2	Oklahoma	9/0
22	Martin, Doug	RB	5-9	223	R	Boise State	
93	McCoy, Gerald	DT	6-4	295	3	Oklahoma	6/6
79	Meredith, Jamon	OT	6-5	312	4	South Carolina	4/0
90	Miller, Roy	DT	6-2	310	4	Texas	16/3
77	Nicks, Carl	OG	6-5	343	5	Nebraska	16/16
	Nix, Jordan	DT	6-3	295	R	North Carolina	
	Noble, Danny	TE	6-5	248	R	Toledo	
98	Okam, Frank	DT	6-5	350	5	Texas	9/3
96	Okoye, Amobi	DT	6-2	292	6	Louisville	16/1
6	Orlovsky, Dan	QB	6-5	230	7	Connecticut	8/5
87	Parker, Preston	WR	6-0	200	3	North Alabama	16/0
70	Penn, Donald	OT	6-5	305	7	Utah State	16/16
	Petrus, Moe	C	6-2	302	R	Connecticut	
80	Pianalto, Zack	TE	6-4	250	2	North Carolina	13/0
92	Price, Brian	DT	6-1	303	3	UCLA	15/14
7	Ratliff, Brett	QB	6-4	224	3	Utah	0/0
	Roberson, Derrick	CB	5-10	182	2	Rutgers	0/0
8	Shoemaker, Tyler	WR	6-1	213	R	Boise State	
34	Smith, Michael	RB	5-9	205	R	Utah State	
68	Sowell, Bradley	OT	6-7	320	R	Mississippi	
88	Stocker, Luke	TE	6-6	253	2	Tennessee	14/9
18	Stroughter, Sammie	WR	5-10	189	4	Oregon State	6/0
25	Talib, Aqib	CB	6-1	205	5	Kansas	13/13
37	Tandy, Keith	CB	5-10	199	R	West Virginia	
	Taylor, Hilee	DE	6-2	250	R	North Carolina	0/0
50	Te'o-Nesheim, Daniel	DE	6-3	263	3	Washington	1/0
41	Thomas, Tramain	S	6-0	204	R	Arkansas	
65	Trueblood, Jeremy	OT	6-8	320	7	Boston College	15/15
84	Urban, Tyler	TE	6-5	251	R	West Virginia	
74	VanDerMeulen, Michael	OG	6-7	304	R	Toledo	
	Wade, Myles	DT	6-1	300	R	Portland State	
56	Watson, Dekoda	LB	6-2	240	3	Florida State	14/2
19	Williams, Mike	WR	6-1	212	3	Syracuse	16/15
78	Wilson, E.J.	DE	6-3	289	3	North Carolina	0/0
82	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-4	240	9	Miami (Fla.)	16/15
21	Wright, Eric	CB	5-10	190	6	UNLV	16/16
72	Wynn, Desmond	OT	6-6	303	R	Rutgers	
76	Zuttah, Jeremy	C-OG	6-4	308	5	Rutgers	15/14

combination of instincts and ball skills, but he's immature and too frequently puts his career in jeopardy by getting into trouble off the field. Sixth-round rookie CB Keith Tandy is an effective run supporter and could excel on special teams. FS Cody Grimm has landed on injured reserve in each of his two NFL seasons. The Bucs love his work ethic, toughness and passion for the game, but he faces questions about his durability and is only an average athlete. Larry Asante, a banger who likes contact, and Ahmad Black will back up at strong safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bucs made a punter their biggest free-agent signing last offseason, and the move worked out very well for P Michael Koenen, and PK Connor Barth. Koenen punted and also handled kickoffs, allowing Barth to focus on field goals. Barth, whose accuracy has improved in each of the past two seasons, set a franchise record by making 92.9 percent of his field goals in 2011, which was the best accuracy rate of any kicker who did not play his home games in a dome. Koenen set a career high in net punting average (40.3), which placed him among the league leaders in the category. He also led the league in net kickoff average and ranked in the top 10 in touchback percentage. Sammie Stroughter doesn't have elite top-end speed. He can make defenders miss in the open field as a kickoff returner, though. Preston Parker has good playmaking ability to return punts and kickoffs, but he is not sure-handed, and ball security was a major issue for him last season when he fumbled eight times, six of which came on punt returns.

SUMMARY

There is some deep-sleeper potential here — the Bucs did win 10 games in 2010 and started off 4-2 in 2011 — but in one of the league's tougher divisions, Tampa Bay is not on the level of its NFC South rivals quite yet. Greg Schiano is working to lead a culture change, and he has the team on the right track.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

2012 PREDICTION: 12-4 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 13-3 *(FIRST PLACE IN NFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. HARBAUGH

HEAD COACH: Jim Harbaugh
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Greg Roman
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Vic Fangio
PRESIDENT/CEO: Jed York
STADIUM: Candlestick Park | **CAPACITY:** 67,732
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.49ers.com

So much for surprises.

After their almost immediate emergence as a heavyweight contender under head coach Jim Harbaugh, the expectations for the Niners are a great deal loftier than they were last offseason.

Combining a ferocious, smothering defense and the league's best special teams with an efficient, run-oriented offense that did just enough to win — the Niners tied a league record with only 10 turnovers — Harbaugh's blue-collar troops earned the Niners' first playoff berth (and first winning record) since 2002.

After steamrolling to a convincing NFC West title, the Niners continued to make the league stand up and take notice in the postseason, staging a classic comeback divisional playoff victory (36-32) over the Saints before falling just short in overtime to the Giants in the NFC championship game.

Entering this season, the Niners suddenly look incredibly stable, with 20 of the team's projected 22 starters under contract beyond 2012.

After adding a touch of intrigue this offseason when they were revealed in mid-March as the "mystery team" in a failed quest for four-time league MVP Peyton Manning, the Niners ultimately agreed to a new three-year deal with QB Alex Smith, who is coming off the best season of his career.

But with Smith scheduled to receive the majority of his new contract only if he's still on the roster after April 1, 2013, he remains under pressure to pick up where he left off in his seventh pro season and make good on the Niners' investment.

SPORTPICS

JUSTIN SMITH

OFFENSE

As was the case at Stanford, head coach Jim Harbaugh and coordinator Greg Roman have shown a fondness for using motion and unique personnel groupings to create mismatches, often overloading one side of the line. The offense did a nice job of exploiting weaknesses in opposing run defenses in 2011. But it had a serious problem converting third-down opportunities.

QUARTERBACKS

Previously prone to forcing the issue and compounding his mistakes, former first-round draft pick Alex Smith was the consummate caretaker in 2011, registering career highs in completion percentage (61.3), passing yards (3,144) and passer rating (90.7) and throwing a league-low five interceptions, despite being sacked more than any other starting quarterback (44 times). Smith was at his best when his back was against the wall, most notably in the divisional playoff victory over the Saints, when he directed TD drives of 80 and 85 yards in the final 4:02. But Smith still needs to get rid of the ball a lot quicker and do a better job of detecting open receivers. A spirited battle is expected this offseason for the backup QB job between strong-armed second-year pro Colin Kaepernick and free-agent pickup Josh Johnson, who excelled under Jim Harbaugh at the University of San Diego.

RUNNING BACKS

The Niners could have the most multifaceted ground

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

RB Rock Cartwright, CB Perrish Cox, RB Brandon Jacobs, QB Josh Johnson, WR Mario Manningham, WR Randy Moss.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

ILB Blake Costanzo, WR Joshua Morgan, OG Adam Snyder.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
TE Vernon Davis

DEFENSIVE MVP
ILB Patrick Willis

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
OLB Aldon Smith

POSITION BATTLE
ORG: Open competition

V. DAVIS

P. WILLIS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
B-	A	B-	B	A	A+	B	A+

game in the league with the well-rounded inside slasher Frank Gore; shifty, change-of-pace second-year back Kendall Hunter; former Giants power back Brandon Jacobs; and explosive second-round rookie LaMichael James. Gore played in all 16 games for the second time in his record-setting seven-year career and posted the second-highest rushing total of his career (1,211), including a franchise-record five straight 100-yard rushing games. But he did not crack 100 yards in any of his final 10 games (including playoffs) and was bothered on occasion by ankle and knee injuries. At 5-foot-7, Hunter often seems to pop out of nowhere behind the Niners' physically imposing linemen, and he has the speed and agility to turn the corner. The hope is that Jacobs, a proven short-yardage specialist (17 TDs the past two seasons), will provide a badly needed boost in third-down situations. James, a big-time star at Oregon who led the nation in rushing yards per game (150.4) last season, has exceptional vision, instincts and lateral agility. He looks to be Gore's heir apparent. Resourceful second-year FB Bruce Miller, a converted defensive end, and ex-Raider Rock Cartwright give the Niners a pair of backs who can do a lot more than just block. Talented but enigmatic third-year pro Anthony Dixon adds another option.

RECEIVERS

If not for a broken foot that sidelined him during training camp and hampered him early last season, former first-round draft pick Michael Crabtree would have likely become the Niners' first 1,000-yard receiver since Terrell Owens in 2003. Big, physical and fearless, Crabtree became an increasingly potent force, particularly over the middle, due to his quick hands and excellent route-running ability. He also unequivocally shed the "diva" tag that many close observers had hung on him with his outstanding blocking. But Crabtree faded badly enough in the postseason to have a rather uneasy hold on the No. 1 WR job entering this season over veteran free-agent pickups Randy Moss and Mario Manningham and first-round rookie A.J. Jenkins. The Niners are hoping Moss, a six-time Pro Bowler with 10 1,000-yard seasons and a single-season league-record 23 TD catches (2007 Patriots) under his belt, can be the steady downfield threat that former Pro Bowl WR Braylon Edwards failed to be last season. Moss is still fast enough to demand double coverage, but at the age of 35, it remains to be seen how much gas he has left in the tank after a one-year layoff. Manningham was overshadowed last season by fellow Giants WRs Hakeem Nicks and Victor Cruz until it counted most in the postseason. He does not have elite speed, but he can get outside the numbers and is capable of making highlight-reel catches, like his 38-yard heart-stopper down the sideline that was instrumental in the game-winning drive in Super Bowl XLVI. Jenkins, a surprise first-round pick, is an accomplished route runner with great acceleration in and out of his breaks. He possesses explosive big-play ability. Kyle Williams, who displayed flashes as a slot receiver, and Ted Ginn Jr. can help out in spot situations. The Niners deliver double trouble at tight end with Vernon Davis, who came alive in the postseason (10 catches for 292 yards and four TDs) after admittedly having a hard time warming up to a new system, and the very versatile Delanie Walker, who can play as many as five different positions.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Earning his first trip to the Pro Bowl, OLT Joe Staley started all 16 games and performed much better than he did the previous season, when he missed the last seven games with a broken left fibula and admitted to being subpar when he did play. Always fast on his feet with great aggressiveness, Staley also grew as a team leader as one of the chief organizers of players-only workouts during the lockout. Big-bodied first-rounders Mike Iupati and Anthony Davis both made major strides at left guard and right tackle, respectively, but remain extremely talented works in progress entering their third seasons together. Iupati has great size, brute strength and long arms. An extremely mellow fellow off the field, he is the polar opposite in pads, possessing a big-time nasty streak that is shared by the demonstrative Davis. Davis, who has an extremely quick first step, excelled in some games and struggled in others last season. Helping to rein in the highly emotional Davis was former Saints C Jonathan Goodwin, a quiet, low-key workhorse with great maturity whom Jim Harbaugh affectionately referred to as a "block of granite." The front-runner to replace the versatile Adam Snyder (signed with Cardinals) at right guard is second-year pro Daniel Kilgore. Kilgore is a promising battler who gets into his blocks quickly. But his only playing time last season was one snap as an extra blocker in the Monday-night win over the Steelers. Versatile Alex Boone, second-year pro Mike Person and smart, big-bodied fourth-round rookie Joe Looney will challenge Kilgore. Rookie Jason Slowey is a good bet to back up Goodwin at center.

DEFENSE

Coordinator Vic Fangio puts a premium on stopping the run, applying steady pressure and forcing turnovers. No team tackled any better than the Niners last season. And there were few units that were as durable, with 11 starters

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Green Bay	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 16	Detroit	8:20 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at NY Jets	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Buffalo	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 14	NY Giants	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 18	Seattle	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Arizona	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	BYE	
Nov. 11	St. Louis	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 19	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at New Orleans	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 2	at St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Miami	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 16	at New England	8:20 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Seattle	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 30	Arizona	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to San Francisco

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Seattle	(-6)	33-17
Sept. 18	Dallas	(+3)	24-27*
Sept. 25	At Cincinnati	(+1.5)	13-8
Oct. 2	At Philadelphia	(+10)	24-23
Oct. 9	Tampa Bay	(-3)	48-3
Oct. 16	At Detroit	(+5)	25-19
Oct. 23	BYE		
Oct. 30	Cleveland	(-9)	20-10
Nov. 6	At Washington	(-5)	19-11
Nov. 13	New York Giants	(-4)	27-20
Nov. 20	Arizona	(-10)	23-7
Nov. 24	At Baltimore	(+3.5)	6-16
Dec. 4	St. Louis	(-14)	26-0
Dec. 11	At Arizona	(-3.5)	19-21
Dec. 19	Pittsburgh	(-3)	20-3
Dec. 24	At Seattle	(-2.5)	19-17
Jan. 1	At St. Louis	(-12.5)	34-27
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 14	New Orleans	(+3.5)	36-32
Jan. 22	New York Giants	(-2)	17-20*

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**SEA.**	**DALL.**	**@CIN.**	**@PHIL.**	**T.B.**	**@DET.**	**CLEV.**	**@WASH.**	**N.Y.G.**	**ARIZ.**	**@BALT.**	**ST.L.**	**@ARIZ.**	**PITT.**	**@SEA.**	**@ST.L.**	
Score	33-17	24-27	13-8	24-23	48-3	25-19	20-10	19-11	27-20	23-7	6-16	26-0	19-21	20-3	19-17	34-27	
Total net yards	209	206	226	442	418	314	348	326	305	431	170	389	233	287	349	321	4974
Rushing yards	85	74	50	164	213	203	174	138	77	164	74	144	90	100	178	116	2044
Passing yards	124	132	176	278	205	111	174	188	228	267	96	245	143	187	171	205	2930
Rushing plays	32	24	29	25	36	29	39	32	20	49	21	34	21	30	40	37	498
Sacks allowed	0	6	5	3	0	2	1	2	2	0	9	4	5	0	2	3	44
Had intercepted	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Fumbles lost	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Yards penalized	102	25	70	40	30	120	40	55	35	87	97	72	35	49	77	80	1014
Punts	5	6	7	4	1	9	5	5	3	3	5	5	7	6	3	5	79

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	28:53	30:42	24:40	31:08	28:57	30:21	27:07	27:41	34:37	15:44	31:08	23:56	29:04	31:26	27:06	24:52	27:58
Total net yards	219	472	228	513	272	310	290	303	395	229	253	157	325	389	265	311	4931
Rushing yards	64	45	79	108	86	66	66	52	93	80	92	31	55	84	124	111	1236
Passing yards	155	427	149	405	186	244	224	251	302	149	161	126	270	305	141	200	3695
Rushing plays	22	22	20	20	23	18	23	14	29	11	35	23	23	19	26	25	353
Sacks allowed	5	1	1	2	3	5	4	2	1	2	0	4	2	3	4	3	42
Had intercepted	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	2	23
Fumbles lost	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	15
Yards penalized	72	83	40	55	96	54	39	35	45	75	20	35	45	72	51	50	867
Punts	7	4	7	2	6	8	6	5	2	6	4	8	7	4	5	6	87

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Dixon		1-6-0			2-4-1	1-0-0			2-10-0	7-32-0		3-2-0		5-12-0		8-21-1	29-87-2
Ginn	1-0-0				1-24-0	2-21-0	1-(-8)-0				1-9-0	1-16-0		1-6-0			8-68-0
Gore	22-59-0	20-47-1	17-42-0	15-127-1	20-125-1	15-141-1	31-134-1	19-107-0	6-0-0	24-88-0	14-39-0	21-73-0	10-72-1	18-65-1	23-83-1	7-9-0	282-1211-8
Hunter	2-4-0		9-26-1	9-38-0	9-65-0	8-33-0	3-26-0	8-25-0	6-40-1	11-27-0	4-14-0	5-4-0	8-20-0	2-2-0	12-73-0	16-76-0	112-473-2
Ale. Smith	7-22-1	3-21-0		1-(-1)-0		2-5-0	4-22-0	4-9-0	6-27-0	7-17-0	2-12-0	2-10-0	1-(-3)-0	3-12-0	5-22-0	5-4-1	52-179-2
K. Williams												1-25-0	1-7-0				2-32-0

PASSING **

Kaepernick					3-3-0 35-0							0-2-0 0-0					3-5-0 35-0
Ale. Smith	15-20-0 124-0	16-24-1 179-2	20-30-0 201-0	21-33-0 291-2	11-19-0 170-3	17-32-1 125-1	15-24-0 177-1	17-24-0 200-1	19-30-1 242-1	20-38-1 267-2	15-24-1 140-0	17-23-0 274-2	18-37-0 175-0	18-31-0 187-1	14-26-0 179-0	20-30-0 213-1	273-445-5 3144-17

RECEIVING

Crabtree	1-4-0		3-24-0	5-68-0	2-36-0	9-77-0	5-54-1	5-51-0	1-21-0	7-120-0	6-54-0	4-96-1	7-63-0	4-35-0	5-85-0	8-86-2	72-874-4
V. Davis	5-47-0	2-18-0	8-114-0	4-45-1	3-39-2	2-8-0	3-27-0	4-41-0	3-40-1	5-67-1	4-38-0	5-32-0	1-32-0	6-72-1	4-54-0	8-118-0	67-792-6
Edwards	3-27-0	1-21-0					4-42-0	2-30-0	3-47-0		1-5-0				1-9-0		15-181-0
Ginn		4-38-0				2-24-0		1-14-0	3-39-0		2-21-0	4-56-0	2-14-0	1-14-0			19-220-0
Gore	3-19-0	3-17-0		2-12-0	2-18-0	2-5-0		1-7-0	1-8-0	1-6-0	1-9-0				1-13-0		17-114-0
Hunter			2-12-0	2-62-0					1-4-0	1-15-0	1-13-0	2-24-0	2-19-0	2-24-0	1-11-0	2-11-0	16-195-0
Miller			4-25-0	1-15-0				1-30-1		1-5-0			2-5-0		1-3-0	1-0-0	11-83-1
Morgan	2-28-0	3-35-0	2-17-0	3-65-1	5-75-0												15-220-1
Walker	1-(-1)-0	2-38-1	1-9-0	3-20-0	2-37-1	2-11-1		2-15-0	6-69-0								19-198-3
K. Williams		1-12-1		1-4-0				1-12-0	1-14-0	5-54-1		2-66-1	4-42-0	4-33-0	1-4-0		20-241-3

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	A.J. Jenkins	WR	Illinois	30
2	LaMichael James	RB	Oregon	61
4	Joe Looney	OG-C	Wake Forest	117
5	Darius Fleming	OLB	Notre Dame	165
6	Trent Robinson	S	Michigan State	180
6	Jason Slowey	C	Western Oregon	199
7	Cam Johnson	OLB-DE	Virginia	237

A.J. JENKINS

combining to miss only eight games.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Considered the team MVP last season by most close team observers, 12-year veteran DT Justin Smith was a relentless, inspirational force, both on and off the field. Displaying amazing stamina and resilience, Smith came up with a host of tide-turning plays throughout the season. When he wasn't overpowering blockers to get to the quarterback (7½ sacks), he thrived on doing the dirty work, occupying blockers on stunts that led to steady sack opportunities for other Niners defenders, most notably first-round phenom Aldon Smith. Like Justin Smith, fellow starting DT Ray McDonald was an every-down workhorse. Before last season, McDonald would get to the pocket but have a hard time finishing off plays. But the light certainly went on for him last season to the tune of 5½ sacks and a team-high 14½ stops behind the line of scrimmage. Moving from the left side to nose tackle, Isaac Sopoaga did not pile up great stats but did a very commendable job clogging the middle. Freakishly athletic for his 330-pound size, Sopoaga has missed only two games since 2005. Reinforcements up front include Ricky Jean Francois, Will Tukuafu, Ian Williams and Demarcus Dobbs.

LINEBACKERS

ILB Patrick Willis' numbers were down last season after he missed three games with a Grade 2 hamstring strain. But while Willis recorded only two sacks, he broke up a career-high 12 passes after being asked to become more involved in coverage, forced a career-high four fumbles and missed only two tackles, according to team records. Combined with lightning-quick NaVorro Bowman, who overtook Willis as the team's leading tackler by a wide margin, the Niners couldn't have asked for a more productive pair of inside linebackers. Bowman was so similar to Willis that he was often mistaken for the five-time Pro Bowler. Both Willis and Bowman provided breakneck range sideline to sideline. LOLB Ahmad Brooks signed a new six-year deal after registering career highs in both tackles (50) and sacks (seven) and doing a tremendous job sealing the left edge in concert with McDonald. On the right side, plans call for Aldon Smith, whose 14 sacks were the second-most ever by a rookie in league history, to replace Parys Haralson as the starter. A unique talent with the size of a defensive end and the agility and speed of a linebacker, Aldon Smith has great acceleration and leverage, tremendously long arms and a great ability to get skinny in the hole. When knocked off his feet, he has a knack for popping right back up and continuing to wreak havoc. Haralson, a smart, solid run defender, headlines a reserve LB corps that also includes veterans Larry Grant and Tavares Gooden and rookies Darius Fleming and Cam Johnson. Grant, a local product, did a great job replacing the injured Willis in the starting lineup for the better part of four games late in the season. In those games, Grant made 29 tackles and two sacks and broke up five passes.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Free-agent pickup Carlos Rogers seldom missed making interceptions last year, which was a well-documented weakness in his previous six seasons with the Redskins. Rogers tied teammate Dashon Goldson for second in the NFC with six picks. Starting every game on the left corner, Rogers also provided solid run support and was like an

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	**15 CRABTREE**	84 Moss	10 K. Williams	
OLT	**74 STALEY**	75 Boone		
OLG	**77 IUPATI**	78 Person		
C	**59 GOODWIN**	62 Slowey *	61 Beeler	
ORG	**67 KILGORE**	75 Boone	66 Looney*	
ORT	**76 A. DAVIS**	75 Boone	78 Person	
TE	**85 V. DAVIS**	46 Walker	82 Byham	
WR	**14 MANNINGHAM**	17 Jenkins*	19 Ginn Jr.	
QB	**11 ALEX SMITH**	7 Kaepernick	1 J. Johnson	
RB	**21 GORE**	32 Hunter	45 Jacobs	
FB	**49 MILLER**			
DEFENSE				
DLT	**91 McDONALD**	96 Dobbs		
NT	**90 SOPOAGA**	95 Jean Francois	93 I. Williams	
DRT	**94 J. SMITH**	92 Tukuafu		
LOLB	**55 BROOKS**	58 Fleming*		
LILB	**53 BOWMAN**	54 Grant		
RILB	**52 WILLIS**	56 Gooden		
ROLB	**99 ALD. SMITH**	98 Haralson	50 C. Johnson*	
LCB	**22 ROGERS**	26 Brock	20 Cox	
RCB	**25 BROWN**	29 Culliver		
SS	**31 WHITNER**	27 Spillman	30 Robinson*	
FS	**38 GOLDSON**	43 Jones	35 LeGree	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**4 LEE**			
PK	**2 AKERS**			
H	**4 LEE**			
PR	**19 GINN JR.**	10 K. Williams		
KR	**19 GINN JR.**	32 Hunter		
LS	**86 JENNINGS**	64 Pontbriand		

*ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Michael Christianson, offensive assistant/coordinator of football technology; Geep Chryst, quarterbacks; Reggie Davis, tight ends; Ed Donatell, secondary; Tim Drevno, offensive line; Ejiro Evero, offensive assistant; Vic Fangio, defensive coordinator; Peter Hansen, defensive assistant/quality control; Jim Harbaugh, head coach; Greg Jackson, asst. secondary; Jim Leavitt, linebackers; John Morton, wide receivers; Bill Nayes, special assistant to head coach; Tom Rathman, running backs; Greg Roman, offensive coordinator; Mike Solari, offensive line; Brad Seely, asst. head coach/special-teams coordinator; Tracy Smith, special-teams assistant; Jim Tomsula, defensive line; Mark Uyeyama, strength and conditioning.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
2	Akers, David	PK	5-10	200	14	Louisville	16/0
61	Beeler, Chase	C	6-3	285	1	Stanford	0/0
44	Bell, Cameron	FB	6-2	252	R	Northern Illinois	
75	Boone, Alex	OT-OG	6-8	300	3	Ohio State	16/0
53	Bowman, NaVorro	LB	6-0	242	3	Penn State	16/16
26	Brock, Tramaine	CB	5-10	197	3	Belhaven (Miss.)	11/0
55	Brooks, Ahmad	LB	6-3	259	7	Virginia	16/16
48	Brown, Kourtnei	LB	6-6	255	R	Clemson	
25	Brown, Tarell	CB	5-10	193	6	Texas	16/16
69	Butrym, Patrick	DT	6-4	285	R	Wisconsin	
82	Byham, Nate	TE	6-4	264	3	Pittsburgh	0/0
28	Cartwright, Rock	RB	5-8	215	11	Kansas State	15/0
48	Celek, Garrett	TE	6-5	252	R	Michigan State	
60	Chisolm, Garrett	OG	6-6	299	R	South Carolina	
20	Cox, Perrish	DB	6-0	198	2	Oklahoma State	0/0
15	Crabtree, Michael	WR	6-1	214	4	Texas Tech	15/14
29	Culliver, Chris	CB	6-0	199	2	South Carolina	16/0
76	Davis, Anthony	OT	6-5	323	3	Rutgers	16/16
85	Davis, Vernon	TE	6-3	250	7	Maryland	16/16
24	Dixon, Anthony	RB	6-1	233	3	Mississippi State	16/0
96	Dobbs, Demarcus	DT	6-2	275	2	Georgia	12/0
58	Fleming, Darius	LB	6-2	255	R	Notre Dame	
19	Ginn Jr., Ted	WR	5-11	180	6	Ohio State	14/3
38	Goldson, Dashon	S	6-2	200	6	Washington	14/14
68	Gonzales, David	OL	6-6	286	R	Washington State	
56	Gooden, Tavares	LB	6-1	242	5	Miami (Fla.)	16/0
59	Goodwin, Jonathan	C	6-3	318	11	Michigan	16/16
21	Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	217	8	Miami (Fla.)	16/15
54	Grant, Larry	LB	6-1	251	5	Ohio State	16/3
71	Hall, Derek	OT	6-5	307	1	Stanford	0/0
33	Hampton, Jewel	RB	5-9	210	R	Southern Illinois	
98	Haralson, Parys	LB	6-0	255	7	Tennessee	16/16
13	Hastings, Joe	WR	6-0	185	2	Washburn (Mo.)	1/0
41	Holcomb, Curtis	CB	5-10	190	2	Florida A&M	0/0
51	Holland, Joe	LB	6-1	229	R	Purdue	
32	Hunter, Kendall	RB	5-7	199	2	Oklahoma State	16/1
77	Iupati, Mike	OG	6-5	331	3	Idaho	16/16
45	Jacobs, Brandon	RB	6-4	264	8	Southern Illinois	14/6
23	James, LaMichael	RB	5-9	195	R	Oregon	
95	Jean Francois, Ricky	DT	6-3	295	4	LSU	16/2
17	Jenkins, A.J.	WR	6-0	192	R	Illinois	
86	Jennings, Brian	TE-LS	6-5	242	13	Arizona State	16/0
50	Johnson, Cam	LB	6-3	268	R	Virginia	
1	Johnson, Josh	QB	6-3	205	5	San Diego	9/1
43	Jones, Colin	S	6-0	208	2	TCU	13/0
7	Kaepernick, Colin	QB	6-4	230	2	Nevada	3/0
67	Kilgore, Daniel	OG	6-3	308	2	Appalachian State	1/0
4	Lee, Andy	P	6-2	180	9	Pittsburgh	16/0
35	LeGree, Mark	S	6-0	210	2	Appalachian State	0/0
66	Looney, Joe	OG	6-3	309	R	Wake Forest	
14	Manningham, Mario	WR	6-0	185	5	Michigan	12/10
71	Masifilo, Matthew	DT	6-3	280	R	Stanford	
83	Matthews, John	WR	6-0	200	3	San Diego	0/0
91	McDonald, Ray	DT	6-3	290	6	Florida	15/15
49	Miller, Bruce	FB	6-2	248	2	UCF	15/8
33	Mosley, Anthony	CB	6-0	178	R	Kentucky	
84	Moss, Randy	WR	6-4	210	13	Marshall	0/0
63	Murphy, Kevin	OT	6-7	295	R	Harvard	
23	Nelms, Cory	CB	6-0	195	1	Miami	0/0
47	Nelson, Kyle	WR	6-3	240	R	New Mexico State	
65	Netter, Al	OG	6-6	310	R	Northwestern	
81	Owusu, Chris	WR	6-2	200	R	Stanford	
89	Palmer, Nathan	WR	5-11	195	R	Northern Illinois	
40	Purvis, Deante'	CB	5-11	195	R	UNLV	
78	Person, Mike	OG-OT	6-4	299	2	Montana State	0/0
64	Pontbriand, Ryan	LS	6-2	255	10	Rice	11/0
88	Reuland, Konrad	TE	6-4	260	1	Stanford	0/0
30	Robinson, Trent	S	5-9	193	R	Michigan State	
22	Rogers, Carlos	CB	6-0	192	8	Auburn	16/16
62	Slowey, Jason	OL	6-4	305	R	Western Oregon	
99	Smith, Aldon	LB	6-4	258	2	Missouri	16/0
11	Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	217	8	Utah	16/16
94	Smith, Justin	DT	6-4	285	12	Missouri	16/16
90	Sopoaga, Isaac	DT	6-2	330	9	Hawaii	15/15
27	Spillman, C.J.	S	6-0	199	4	Marshall	16/0
74	Staley, Joe	OT	6-5	315	6	Central Michigan	16/16
18	Swain, Brett	WR	6-0	200	4	San Diego State	5/1
5	Tavecchio, Giorgio	PK	5-10	178	R	California	
36	Thomas, Michael	S	5-11	182	R	Stanford	
3	Tolzien, Scott	QB	6-3	205	2	Wisconsin	0/0
92	Tukuafu, Will	DT	6-3	293	2	Oregon	4/0
9	Tyms, Brian	WR	6-3	210	R	Florida A&M	
46	Walker, Delanie	TE	6-0	242	7	Central Missouri	15/7
31	Whitner, Donte	S	5-10	208	7	Ohio State	15/15
69	Wiggins, Kenny	OT	6-6	314	R	Fresno State	
57	Wilhoite, Michael	LB	6-0	240	1	Washburn (Mo.)	0/0
93	Williams, Ian	DT	6-1	305	2	Notre Dame	1/0
10	Williams, Kyle	WR	5-10	186	3	Arizona State	13/1
52	Willis, Patrick	LB	6-1	240	6	Mississippi	13/13

extra coach on the field after quickly mastering the defense's coverages and techniques. Starting RCB Tarell Brown learned from his mistakes after earning the starting job at the beginning of last season and just kept on improving. As was the case with Rogers, starting SS Donte Whitner offered an immediate pick-me-up after being obtained in free agency. The ex-Bill takes particular pride in his technique and tackling ability, which set the tone early in the Niners' divisional playoff win over the Saints when he forced a fumble near the Niners' goal line with a wicked hit on Saints RB Pierre Thomas. Like Rogers, Goldson made the Pro Bowl for the first time in his career, emerging as a consistent big-play force after missing the first two games with a knee injury. Goldson has a great wingspan and, like Whitner, he hits like a truck. Quality depth is provided by Chris Culliver, who did a fine job replacing Shawntae Spencer as the third corner, free-agent pickup Perrish Cox, C.J. Spillman, Tramaine Brock and rookie Trent Robinson, a versatile athlete who plays with a lot of energy.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Niners had the top kicking combo in the NFL, courtesy of Pro Bowlers David Akers and Andy Lee. A free-agent pickup last offseason, Akers set single-season league records with 44 field goals, including 7-of-9 from 50 yards and beyond, and 166 points. Lee set a league record with a 44.0-yard net average and kept returns to a minimum by angling most of his punts toward the sideline. Ted Ginn Jr. ranked third in the NFL in kick returns (27.6-yard average) and fourth in punt returns (12.3 yards). Ginn got his season off to a blazing start when he returned a kickoff and a punt for TDs in the final minutes of a win over Seattle. Veteran Brian Jennings is a dependable long-snapper.

SUMMARY

The Niners probably won't be as dominating a force in an NFC West division that appears to have improved considerably from top to bottom. But on the strength of their defense and special teams alone, it will be a huge surprise if they fail to make postseason noise again.

2 SEATTLE Seahawks

2012 PREDICTION: 7-9 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 7-9 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

P. CARROLL

HEAD COACH: Pete Carroll
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Darrell Bevell
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Gus Bradley
CHAIRMAN: Paul G. Allen
STADIUM: Qwest Field | **CAPACITY:** 67,000
PLAYING SURFACE: FieldTurf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.seahawks.com

Acknowledging that the NFL has indeed become a copycat league, Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll knew a good thing when he saw it when the division-rival Niners came together so quickly under former Pac-12 rival Jim Harbaugh.

After struggling to find themselves during a 2-6 start, the Seahawks established a very Niners-like identity while winning five of their last eight games. Starting off the season in a hurry-up mode, the offense evolved into a ball-control unit that showcased the talents of crowd-pleasing RB Marshawn Lynch. The defense also picked up on the Niners' blueprint, adeptly stuffing the run, forcing turnovers and playing with an edge.

After concentrating on re-signing key contributors such as Lynch, DE Red Bryant and FB/special-teams ace Michael Robinson and striking out in an effort to lure Peyton Manning to the Pacific Northwest, the Seahawks made a big free-agent splash with the signing of QB Matt Flynn, who was widely considered the most attractive quarterback available after displaying eye-opening flashes in very limited opportunities as the backup to QB Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay.

In a perfect world, Flynn will follow in the footsteps of Matt Hasselbeck, another ex-Packer who packed a mighty punch as the Seahawks' signalcaller for 10 seasons.

It sure would help, though, if the team could capitalize more on its celebrated "12th man" vibe of years past, having finished just 15-17 at home over the past four seasons.

SPORTPICS

MARSHAWN LYNCH

OFFENSE

The Seahawks are claiming there will be an open QB competition between newcomer Matt Flynn and incumbent Tarvaris Jackson, but most close observers expect Flynn to have a firm grip on the starting job once the regular season gets under way. The receiving game needs to get a lot more out of WRs Sidney Rice and Mike Williams, who missed a combined 11 games because of injuries last season.

QUARTERBACKS

One big knock on Matt Flynn is his limited body of work. But Flynn could not have been more impressive in his two pro starts, completing 67.9 percent of his passes for 731 yards and a 9-2 TD-interception ratio. Flynn has great intangibles. He has an unflappable demeanor and gritty leadership skills. He makes smart split-second decisions with a quick release and good pocket awareness. His arm strength has steadily improved, and he has very underrated mobility. Tarvaris Jackson has a strong arm and showed great toughness playing through a torn pectoral muscle much of last season. But he finished 7-7 as a starter with a 14-13 TD-interception ratio, often held on to the ball too long and was a disappointing 0-4 in fourth-quarter comebacks. Rookie Russell Wilson is a promising third-stringer who could be used in spot situations.

RUNNING BACKS

RB Marshawn Lynch posted career highs in carries (285), rushing yards (1,204,

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

QB Matt Flynn, DE Jason Jones, RB Kregg Lumpkin, OL Frank Omiyale.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

TE John Carlson, OG Robert Gallery, ILB David Hawthorne, QB Charlie Whitehurst.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Marshawn Lynch

DEFENSIVE MVP
FS Earl Thomas

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
LB K.J. Wright

POSITION BATTLE
MLB: Bobby Wagner vs. Barrett Ruud

M. LYNCH

E. THOMAS

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C	A-	C	B-	B+	C	A-	B

seventh-best in the NFL) and touchdowns (13) in his second season in Seattle. After tending to dance and hesitate behind the line early in the season, he became a much more decisive runner approaching the season's halfway point, establishing a surprisingly strong chemistry with an offensive line that was being revamped on the fly. Lynch runs much bigger than his size and frequently eludes tacklers with a rare blend of power and shiftiness. He displayed more maturity than he had in the past and made more of a commitment to preparation, whether it meant spending more time in film study or just stretching properly. Leon Washington, a shifty, sure-handed runner who relies on elusiveness more than brute strength, shapes up as the team's third-down back. Adding 15 pounds to his frame last offseason after being projected as a true fullback for the first time in his career, Michael Robinson provided key blocking for Lynch, in addition to being a vocal team leader. Bruising fourth-round rookie Robert Turbin, free-agent pickup Kregg Lumpkin and ex-Panther Tyrell Sutton add depth in the backfield.

RECEIVERS

Health issues really bogged down high-profile free-agent addition Sidney Rice in his first season in Seattle. Rice tore a labrum in the second preseason game, which forced him to miss the first two games of the season (he had surgery on both shoulders after the season). He later was placed on injured reserve on Nov. 30 after suffering a pair of concussions in a three-game stretch. A dangerous big-play threat when healthy (five catches of 30 or more yards, including a 52-yard TD, before going on I.R.), Rice has really long arms, excellent body control and great balance when the ball is in the air. After a breakout campaign the previous season, Mike Williams struggled mightily in 2011, managing a mere 18 catches for 236 yards and one score. Assorted injuries were a big part of the problem, but Williams' penchant for dropping passes that hit him right in the hands was disturbing. Catching passes certainly wasn't a problem for undrafted free agent Doug Baldwin, a revelation in the slot who led the team in receiving (51-788-4). A playmaking force from the moment he stepped on the practice field, Baldwin displayed an uncanny knack for finding openings in the seams. Ben Obomanu returns as an excellent utility man who can play all three receiver positions. Others in the WR mix include athletic Golden Tate, who showed improvement in his second season; Deon Butler, who got a late start last season due to a broken leg suffered in 2010; Ricardo "the Rocket" Lockette, who displayed some exciting big-play flashes late in the season, including a one-handed 61-yard TD grab vs. Arizona; and sure-handed second-year pro Kris Durham, who went on I.R. last November (labrum). Look for a lot more production from TE Zach Miller, who was forced into more of a blocking role in passing situations last year due to injuries on the O-line. Miller caught at least 60 passes in his last two seasons in Oakland before coming to Seattle. Anthony McCoy, who has trouble holding on to passes, and Cameron Moorah, who has the explosiveness to line up as a receiver on the perimeter, round out the TE corps.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Former first-round OLT Russell Okung suffered a season-ending torn pectoral muscle on a cheap shot by Eagles DE Trent Cole in Week 13, but he should be ready for training camp. An explosive knee-bender with long arms, big hands and excellent balance, Okung was playing quite well before going down, but he still broke down on occasion. The right side of the line suffered a major blow when fellow first-rounders OG John Moffitt and OT James Carpenter suffered season-ending knee injuries four days apart last November. They both had their moments, with the fiery, take-charge Moffitt showing more consistency than Carpenter, who is not expected to be ready for training camp. Carpenter will have to win the starting ORT job back from burly ex-Packer Breno Giacomini, who did a terrific job stepping into the starting lineup along with ex-Raider Paul McQuistan. McQuistan was forced to start three games at left guard, three games at right guard and four games at left tackle. He figures to be the front-runner to start the season at left guard in place of Robert Gallery, a big disappointment who was released. Smart, steady C Max Unger was the only starting lineman to avoid a season-ending injury or surgery last season. Lemuel Jeanpierre, ex-Bear Frank Omiyale, massive ex-Cardinal Deuce Lutui and rookie J.R. Sweezy, a converted defensive tackle, add depth and versatility.

DEFENSE

Pete Carroll's fingerprints were all over a talented, young defense that showed steady improvement and did a nice job denying big plays (seventh in points allowed in 2011). But the defense registered only 33 sacks (11 by DE Chris Clemons alone) and lost MLB David Hawthorne (signed by the Saints), its leading tackler each of the past three seasons.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DRE Red Bryant, who became the defense's highest-paid player when he signed a new five-year deal worth up to $35 million, sets the tone on the field, as well as in the locker room. The strongest player on the team, Bryant's biggest strength is sealing the edge in

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Arizona	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 16	Dallas	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 24	Green Bay	8:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	at St. Louis	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Carolina	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 14	New England	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 18	at San Francisco	8:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Minnesota	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 11	NY Jets	4:05 p.m.
Nov. 18	BYE	
Nov. 25	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2	at Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Arizona	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Buffalo	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 23	San Francisco	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 30	St. Louis	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Seattle

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	At San Francisco	(+6)	17-33
Sept. 18	At Pittsburgh	(+14)	0-24
Sept. 25	Arizona	(+3)	13-10
Oct. 2	Atlanta	(+6)	28-30
Oct. 9	At New York Giants	(+10)	36-25
Oct. 16	BYE		
Oct. 23	At Cleveland	(+3)	3-6
Oct. 30	Cincinnati	(+1.5)	12-34
Nov. 6	At Dallas	(+10.5)	13-23
Nov. 13	Baltimore	(+7)	22-17
Nov. 20	At St. Louis	(+3)	24-7
Nov. 27	Washington	(-3)	17-23
Dec. 1	Philadelphia	(+3)	31-14
Dec. 12	St. Louis	(-8.5)	30-13
Dec. 18	At Chicago	(+3.5)	38-14
Dec. 24	San Francisco	(+2.5)	17-19
Jan. 1	At Arizona	(+2.5)	20-23*

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**@S.F.**	**@PITT.**	**ARIZ.**	**ATL.**	**@N.Y.G.**	**@CLEV.**	**CIN.**	**@DALL.**	**BALT.**	**@ST.L.**	**WASH.**	**PHIL.**	**ST.L.**	**@CHI.**	**S.F.**	**@ARIZ.**	
Score	17-33	0-24	13-10	28-30	36-25	3-6	12-34	13-23	22-17	24-7	17-23	31-14	30-13	38-14	17-19	20-23	
Total net yards	219	164	261	372	424	137	411	381	327	289	250	347	359	286	265	369	4861
Rushing yards	64	31	122	53	145	68	61	162	119	126	124	174	145	60	124	178	1756
Passing yards	155	133	139	319	279	69	350	219	208	163	126	173	214	226	141	191	3105
Rushing plays	22	13	30	15	29	16	20	30	42	39	30	33	32	33	26	34	444
Sacks allowed	5	5	4	0	6	4	4	1	1	4	2	3	2	1	4	4	50
Had intercepted	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	14
Fumbles lost	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	9
Yards penalized	72	66	39	40	70	68	80	88	100	100	91	30	61	36	51	55	1047
Punts	7	8	8	3	7	7	6	3	5	9	6	5	3	5	5	8	95

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	31:07	38:44	31:49	40:10	31:14	42:56	31:27	29:27	24:59	25:00	33:20	29:40	28:31	28:23	32:54	30:42	31:53
Total net yards	209	421	324	412	464	298	252	442	323	185	416	330	281	221	349	388	5315
Rushing yards	85	124	90	121	69	139	92	163	75	42	110	132	114	132	178	131	1797
Passing yards	124	297	234	291	395	159	160	279	248	143	306	198	167	89	171	257	3518
Rushing plays	32	35	28	36	25	45	27	29	12	17	29	25	31	31	40	31	473
Sacks allowed	0	2	3	0	3	4	1	0	1	5	1	2	3	4	2	2	33
Had intercepted	0	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	1	2	4	1	4	0	1	22
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	9
Yards penalized	102	48	20	35	52	48	65	82	34	50	115	28	30	45	77	76	907
Punts	5	3	5	4	7	5	5	4	4	10	4	4	5	6	3	7	81

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Forsett	3-3-0	3-10-0	1-0-0	3-11-0	4-9-0	8-23-0		2-8-0	1-3-0	4-31-1	1-1-0	2-5-0	1-8-0	6-12-0	1-5-0	6-16-0	46-145-1
T. Jackson	4-13-0	3-12-0	4-20-1	2-16-0	4-17-0		1-2-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	2-10-0		2-4-0	5-4-0	3-(-2)-0	2-3-0	1-3-0	40-108-1
Lynch	13-33-0	6-11-0	19-73-0	8-24-1	12-98-1		16-24-1	23-135-1	32-109-1	27-88-1	24-111-0	22-148-2	23-115-1	20-42-2	21-107-1	19-86-0	285-1204-12
L. Washington		1-(-2)-0	3-29-0	2-2-0	3-10-0	7-39-0	2-34-0	3-16-0	3-9-0	6-(-3)-0	4-9-0	6-9-0	1-3-0	3-6-0	2-9-0	7-78-1	53-248-1

PASSING **

T. Jackson	21-37-1 197-2	20-29-0 159-0	18-31-1 171-0	25-38-2 319-3	15-22-1 166-1		21-40-1 323-0	17-30-3 221-0	17-27-0 217-0	14-24-2 148-1	14-30-1 144-2	13-16-0 190-1	21-32-0 224-1	19-31-0 227-1	15-28-0 163-1	21-35-1 222-1	271-450-13 3091-14
Whitehurst					11-19-0 149-1	12-30-1 97-0	4-7-0 52-0										27-56-1 298-1

RECEIVING

Baldwin	4-83-1	1-4-0	2-23-0	5-84-0	8-136-1		5-73-0	3-31-0	1-50-0	3-60-0	5-60-0	1-21-0	7-93-1	1-13-0	2-17-1	3-40-0	51-788-4
Forsett	3-8-0	3-20-0	1-1-0	3-30-0			1-13-0	2-14-0		1-2-0	1-1-0		2-14-0	1-9-0	2-20-0	3-(-4)-0	23-128-0
Lockette															1-44-0	1-61-1	2-105-1
Lynch	2-14-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	3-33-0	4-33-0			1-8-0	5-58-0	2-1-0	1-20-1		2-8-0	2-5-0	2-24-0	2-5-0	28-212-1
A. McCoy	2-12-0	2-9-0			1-20-0	2-10-0		2-44-0	2-15-0		1-13-0		1-23-0				13-146-0
Z. Miller	2-19-0	1-13-0	2-9-0	3-21-0			3-37-0		3-24-0	1-10-0	1-2-0	2-53-0	2-13-0	4-23-0	1-9-0		25-233-0
Morrah						2-18-0	2-21-0							1-21-0		1-14-0	6-74-0
Obomanu	2-12-0	4-35-0	2-12-0	3-25-1	6-51-1		4-107-0	2-6-0	1-10-0	1-11-0	3-26-0	2-28-0	1-13-0	1-43-0	2-20-0	3-37-0	37-436-2
Rice			8-109-0	3-79-1	4-38-0	2-38-0	7-102-0	3-69-0	2-14-0	3-35-1							32-484-2
M. Robinson				1-7-0			1-11-0			1-6-0	1-7-0	4-41-0		1-2-1			9-74-1
Tate	1-8-1	2-12-0	2-15-0		2-31-0	1-11-0	2-11-0	1-8-0	3-46-0	1-16-0	1-15-1	4-47-1	3-39-0	4-61-0	3-16-0	5-46-0	35-382-3
M. Williams	4-34-0	1-9-0		3-36-1		1-10-0		3-41-0		2-62-0			2-13-0	2-31-0			18-236-1

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Bruce Irvin	DE	West Virginia	15
2	Bobby Wagner	LB	Utah State	47
3	Russell Wilson	QB	Wisconsin	75
4	Robert Turbin	RB	Utah State	106
4	Jaye Howard	DT	Florida	114
5	Korey Toomer	OLB	Idaho	154
6	Jeremy Lane	CB	Northwestern St. (La.)	172
6	Winston Guy	SS	Kentucky	181
7	J.R. Sweezy	OG	North Carolina State	225
7	Greg Scruggs	DE-DT	Louisville	232

B. IRVIN

the run game. He does a great job of using his hands and body to disengage and make plays, and he is extremely athletic for his size, as evidenced by his two interceptions in 2011, one of which he returned for a TD vs. the Bears. Greatly underrated DLE Chris Clemons became the first Seahawks player to record at least 10 sacks in each of his first two seasons with the team. Clemons has a great initial surge and is as relentless as any player in the league, always spinning and ducking and never giving up on any play. DRT Brandon Mebane, a starter since his rookie season, consistently beats double-teams. Mebane ranked first in the NFC (sixth in NFL) with 56 tackles (40 solos) among interior linemen. Typecast as an underachiever in Arizona, DLT Alan Branch did yeoman's work on the nose in his first season in Seattle, throttling the run and playing with great passion and energy. Free-agent pickup Jason Jones, who started 28 games the past two seasons for the Titans, should bolster the DT rotation's inside pass rush. Meanwhile, first-round rookie Bruce Irvin, whom the Seahawks considered the best pass rusher available in the draft with his rare speed and Von Miller-like explosion and burst, should also improve the pass rush. Further depth is provided by Clinton McDonald, Dexter Davis, Pep Livingston and rookies Jaye Howard and Greg Scruggs.

LINEBACKERS

K.J. Wright, a fourth-round draft pick last season, did a dynamite job replacing former first-rounder Aaron Curry on the strong side. The Seahawks love Wright's intangibles. He is physical at the point of attack, shows great attention to detail and is excellent in both zone and man coverage. Second-round rookie Bobby Wagner, a rocked-up tackle machine from Utah State with excellent athleticism, enters the season as the new starting middle linebacker, replacing David Hawthorne. Another MLB candidate is free-agent pickup Barrett Ruud, who had more than 100 tackles in four straight seasons for Tampa Bay (2007-10), where he played for two seasons under Gus Bradley, the Seahawks' defensive coordinator, who previously coached the Bucs' 'backers. Ruud, who started nine games for the Titans last season, was placed on injured reserve in mid-December due to groin and shoulder injuries that could be cause for concern. Leroy Hill returns as the starter on the weak side after playing 16 games for the first time in his career and enjoying his most productive year in five seasons. Hill increased his value by staying on the field in nickel situations. Yet, he has had his share of off-field issues. The top reserves are second-year pro Malcolm Smith, who has decent speed and playmaking skills but has had trouble staying healthy, veteran Matt McCoy and athletic rookie Korey Toomer.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Youth is definitely being served in the Seahawks' very talented secondary, with none of the starters having more than two years of starting experience. Pro Bowl starting FS Earl Thomas had only two interceptions in 2011, but his outstanding speed and range and blanket coverage were instrumental in the unit's success. An intense competitor, Thomas was a great deal more disciplined in his sophomore season and had a much better idea of what opposing offenses were trying to do. SS Kam Chancellor was a perfect complement to Thomas, emerging as one of the league's more physical, hard-hitting defenders in the middle of

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE				
WR	**17 M. WILLIAMS**	87 Obomanu		11 Butler	
OLT	**76 OKUNG**	75 Carpenter		78 Barbre	
OLG	**67 McQUISTAN**	61 Jeanpierre		64 Sweezy*	
C	**60 UNGER**	61 Jeanpierre			
ORG	**74 MOFFITT**	72 Lutui		66 Fanaika	
ORT	**68 GIACOMINI**	75 Carpenter		65 Omiyale	
TE	**86 MILLER**	85 A. McCoy		88 Morrah	
WR	**18 RICE**	89 Baldwin		81 Tate	
QB	**15 FLYNN**	7 Jackson		3 Wilson*	
RB	**24 LYNCH**	33 Washington		22 Turbin*	
FB	**26 ROBINSON**				
	DEFENSE				
DLE	**91 CLEMONS**	58 Davis		95 Allen	
DLT	**99 BRANCH**	90 Jones		69 McDonald	
DRT	**92 MEBANE**	93 Levingston		94 Howard*	
DRE	**79 BRYANT**	51 Irvin*		98 Scruggs*	
WLB	**56 HILL**	47 Toomer*		55 Farwell	
MLB	**54 WAGNER***	57 Ruud		52 M. McCoy	
SLB	**50 WRIGHT**	53 Smith		48 Morgan	
LCB	**25 SHERMAN**	34 Lewis		41 Maxwell	
RCB	**39 BROWNER**	23 Trufant		28 Thurmond	
SS	**31 CHANCELLOR**	32 J. Johnson		27 Guy*	
FS	**29 THOMAS**	42 Maragos			
	SPECIALISTS				
P	**9 RYAN**				
PK	**4 HAUSCHKA**				
H	**9 RYAN**				
PR	**33 WASHINGTON**	81 Tate			
KR	**33 WASHINGTON**	81 Tate			
LS	**49 GRESHAM**				

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Darrell Bevell, offensive coordinator; Gus Bradley, defensive coordinator; Kippy Brown, wide receivers; Tom Cable, asst. head coach/offensive line; Dave Canales, quality control/offense; Chris Carlisle, head strength and conditioning; Pete Carroll, head coach; Keith Carter, quality control/offense; John Glenn, asst. special teams; Marquand Manuel, asst. special teams; Pat McPherson, tight ends; Ken Norton Jr., linebackers; Kris Richard, secondary; Pat Ruel, asst. offensive line; Robert Saleh, quality control/defense; Brian Schneider, special teams; Rocky Seto, def. passing-game coordinator; Carl Smith, quarterbacks; Sherman Smith, running backs; Jeff Ulbrich, special-teams assistant; Todd Wash, defensive line.

Seattle's defense. On the corners, 6-foot-4 CFL product Brandon Browner and 6-foot-3 Richard Sherman offer rare combinations of size and strength, which allow them to effectively jam receivers at the line of scrimmage and disrupt the timing of opposing passing offenses. Browner's six interceptions (two of which were returned for TDs) were the most by a Seahawks player in four seasons. But he needs to curb his aggressiveness and cut down on pass-interference penalties. Sherman, a pleasant surprise in 10 starts as a rookie, plays with a similar swagger. Coming off two consecutive season-ending surgeries, top third CB candidate Walter Thurmond could be iffy for training camp. Veterans Marcus Trufant and Roy Lewis, Byron Maxwell, Chris Maragos and rookies Jeremy Lane and Winston Guy provide depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Seattle's normally first-rate special teams took a step back in 2011, allowing three returns for TDs, in addition to nullifying a punt-return TD by Leon Washington with a blocking-in-the-back penalty. Captain Michael Robinson (10 tackles, a forced fumble and a blocked punt return for a TD) spearheads the coverage units. Washington is considered one of the NFL's more dangerous kick returners. PK Steven Hauschka tied a franchise high for field goals in one game (5-for-5 vs. Baltimore) and converted at least one FG in 12 straight games, tying Todd Peterson for the longest streak in franchise history. Jon Ryan remained one of the league's more effective punters, leading the league and tying a team record with a career-high 34 punts inside the 20-yard line.

SUMMARY

The natives no doubt will be restless should the Seahawks fail to show considerable improvement in the standings after 7-9 marks in each of the first two seasons of the Pete Carroll-John Schneider regime. Although they figure to have a tough time matching up to the Niners in the NFC West, a wild-card berth just might be a realistic goal.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
35	Adams, Phillip	DB	5-11	192	3	South Carolina State	1/0
95	Allen, Pierre	DE	6-4	273	2	Nebraska	0/0
89	Baldwin, Doug	WR	5-10	189	2	Stanford	16/1
78	Barbre, Allen	OT-OG	6-4	305	6	Missouri Southern	3/0
13	Bates, Phil	WR	6-1	220	R	Ohio	
44	Bradford, Allen	LB	5-11	235	2	USC	1/0
99	Branch, Alan	DT	6-6	325	6	Michigan	15/15
39	Browner, Brandon	CB	6-4	221	2	Oregon State	16/16
79	Bryant, Red	DE	6-4	323	5	Texas A&M	16/16
11	Butler, Deon	WR	5-10	182	4	Penn State	5/0
75	Carpenter, James	OT	6-5	321	2	Alabama	9/9
31	Chancellor, Kam	SS	6-3	232	3	Virginia Tech	15/15
91	Clemons, Chris	DE	6-3	254	9	Georgia	16/16
58	Davis, Dexter	DE	6-1	244	3	Arizona State	1/0
16	Durham, Kris	WR	6-6	216	2	Georgia	3/0
10	Durham, London	CB	6-0	180	R	McNeese State	
66	Fanaika, Paul	OG	6-5	327	4	Arizona State	3/0
55	Farwell, Heath	LB	6-0	235	8	San Diego State	11/0
15	Flynn, Matt	QB	6-2	225	5	LSU	5/1
37	Francies, Coye	DB	6-0	185	4	San Jose State	0/0
68	Giacomini, Breno	OT	6-7	318	5	Louisville	15/8
49	Gresham, Clint	LS	6-3	240	3	TCU	16/0
27	Guy, Winston	SS	6-1	218	R	Kentucky	
4	Hauschka, Steven	PK	6-4	210	5	North Carolina State	16/0
56	Hill, Leroy	OLB	6-1	238	8	Clemson	16/16
94	Howard, Jaye	DT	6-3	301	R	Florida	
51	Irvin, Bruce	DE	6-3	245	R	West Virginia	
7	Jackson, Tarvaris	QB	6-2	225	7	Alabama State	15/14
61	Jeanpierre, Lemuel	OG-C	6-3	301	3	South Carolina	16/5
32	Johnson, Jeron	SS	5-10	212	2	Boise State	7/0
63	Johnson, Rishaw	OG	6-3	313	R	California (Pa.)	
90	Jones, Jason	DE	6-5	276	5	Eastern Michigan	14/13
19	Kearse, Jermaine	WR	6-1	209	R	Washington	
46	Konz, Jameson	LB	6-3	234	3	Kent State	1/0
1	Lane, Jeremy	CB	6-0	190	R	Northwestern St. (La.)	
77	Law, Cordarro	DE	6-1	254	R	Southern Mississippi	
93	Levingston, Pep	DT	6-4	292	2	LSU	4/0
34	Lewis, Roy	CB	5-10	190	5	Washington	10/1
83	Lockette, Ricardo	WR	6-2	211	2	Fort Valley State (Ga.)	2/0
20	Lumpkin, Kregg	RB	5-11	228	4	Georgia	16/0
72	Lutui, Deuce	OG	6-4	338	7	USC	15/0
24	Lynch, Marshawn	RB	5-11	215	6	California	15/15
42	Maragos, Chris	FS	5-10	200	3	Wisconsin	11/0
14	Martin, Charly	WR	6-1	212	3	West Texas A&M	0/0
41	Maxwell, Byron	CB	6-1	207	2	Clemson	9/0
85	McCoy, Anthony	TE	6-5	259	3	USC	16/9
52	McCoy, Matt	LB	6-0	232	8	San Diego State	4/1
69	McDonald, Clinton	DT	6-2	297	4	Memphis	15/1
45	McGrath, Sean	TE	6-5	247	R	Henderson State (Ark.)	
67	McQuistan, Paul	OG-OT	6-6	315	7	Weber State	16/10
92	Mebane, Brandon	DT	6-1	311	6	California	16/16
86	Miller, Zach	TE	6-5	255	6	Arizona State	15/15
74	Moffitt, John	OG	6-4	319	2	Wisconsin	9/9
48	Morgan, Mike	LB	6-3	226	2	USC	5/0
88	Morrah, Cameron	TE	6-3	251	4	California	9/3
59	Moten, Adrian	LB	6-2	230	2	Maryland	2/0
82	Nalbone, John	TE	6-4	255	4	Monmouth (N.J.)	0/0
87	Obomanu, Ben	WR	6-1	204	7	Auburn	16/7
76	Okung, Russell	OT	6-5	310	3	Oklahoma State	12/12
65	Omiyale, Frank	OT	6-4	315	8	Tennessee Tech	16/3
77	Opperud, Jon	OT	6-7	305	R	Montana	
62	Osborne, Brent	OG-C	6-3	288	2	Harvard	0/0
36	Parker, Ron	CB	6-0	206	2	Newberry (S.C.)	2/0
2	Portis, Josh	QB	6-3	211	2	California (Pa.)	0/0
18	Rice, Sidney	WR	6-4	202	6	South Carolina	9/9
26	Robinson, Michael	FB	6-1	240	7	Penn State	14/5
57	Ruud, Barrett	LB	6-2	241	8	Nebraska	9/9
9	Ryan, Jon	P	6-0	217	7	Regina (Saskatchewan)	16/0
98	Scruggs, Greg	DE	6-3	284	R	Louisville	
5	Shead, DeShawn	DB	6-1	220	R	Portland State	
25	Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	195	2	Stanford	16/10
53	Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-0	226	2	USC	12/0
30	Sutton, Tyrell	RB	5-8	213	3	Northwestern	0/0
64	Sweezy, J.R.	OG	6-5	295	R	North Carolina State	
81	Tate, Golden	WR	5-10	202	3	Notre Dame	16/5
40	Taua, Vai	RB	5-10	211	2	Nevada	0/0
73	Taylor, Adrian	DT	6-3	311	1	Oklahoma	0/0
97	Taylor, Monte	DE	6-4	265	R	Cincinnati	
29	Thomas, Earl	FS	5-10	202	3	Texas	16/16
28	Thurmond, Walter	CB	5-11	190	3	Oregon	6/3
47	Toomer, Korey	LB	6-2	234	R	Idaho	
23	Trufant, Marcus	CB	5-11	197	10	Washington State	4/4
84	Tuinei, Lavasier	WR	6-4	220	R	Oregon	
22	Turbin, Robert	RB	5-10	222	R	Utah State	
60	Unger, Max	C	6-5	305	4	Oregon	15/15
54	Wagner, Bobby	LB	6-0	241	R	Utah State	
33	Washington, Leon	RB	5-8	203	7	Florida State	16/1
	Webber, Raymond	WR	6-3	220	2	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0/0
6	Wiggs, Carson	PK	6-1	222	R	Purdue	
17	Williams, Mike	WR	6-5	235	6	USC	12/10
3	Wilson, Russell	QB	5-11	206	R	Wisconsin	
50	Wright, K.J.	LB	6-4	246	2	Mississippi State	16/12

3 ARIZONA Cardinals

2012 PREDICTION: 7-9 *(THIRD PLACE IN NFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 8-8 *(SECOND PLACE IN NFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

K. WHISENHUNT

HEAD COACH: Ken Whisenhunt
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Miller
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ray Horton
CHAIRMAN AND OWNER: William V. Bidwill
STADIUM: Univ. of Phoenix Stadium | **CAPACITY:** 63,400
PLAYING SURFACE: Grass
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.azcardinals.com

Which Cardinals team is going to show up in 2012?

Will it be the team that looked like one of the weakest in the NFL while losing six of its first seven games last season?

Or will it be the gritty, resilient team that rebounded with a 7-2 finish, spearheaded by a resurgent defense under first-year coordinator Ray Horton and an offense that showed a knack for saving its best for last?

The Cardinals would have much preferred not having to depend on fourth-quarter comebacks for six of their eight victories, which included a single-season league-record four wins in overtime (all at home). A major goal for the coming season will be for the offense to avoid the slow starts that developed into such a disturbing trend last season.

Considerable improvement from QB Kevin Kolb would help. The Cardinals are banking on Kolb, who signed a hefty contract after being acquired in a high-profile trade with the Eagles last offseason, being much healthier (he missed seven games and most of an eighth due to foot and concussion injuries) and much more comfortable in his second season in a system that he really struggled to comprehend in 2011.

But first Kolb must beat out the strong-armed John Skelton, who earned a legitimate shot at a starting role this summer by winning six of the eight games in which he appeared, usually in a dramatic fashion.

JEFF FISHBEIN

LARRY FITZGERALD

OFFENSE

The Cardinals' inconsistent play at quarterback (21-23 TD-interception ratio in 2011) led to the firing of QB coach Chris Miller, who has been replaced by John McNulty, previously the WR coach. Frank Reich, who coached Peyton Manning in Indianapolis, will coach the wide receivers.

QUARTERBACKS

Kevin Kolb won only three times in nine starts. After completing 61.4 percent of his passes with a 4-1 TD-interception ratio in his first two games, his completion percentage dropped to 57.3 with a 1-5 TD-interception ratio in the next three games. Although his protection left a lot to be desired, Kolb made matters much worse by doing a poor job of moving in the pocket and buying more time. He also struggled with his accuracy, often badly missing wide-open receivers. Kolb must do a better job of getting rid of the ball and being faster with his reads, which, unlike the previous system in which he played in Philadelphia, involves progressions from one receiver to the next. John Skelton, who led four fourth-quarter comeback wins, did not play well at all early in games last season. But Skelton displayed an unflappable demeanor, surprising mobility and an impressive ability to hang in the pocket and create something positive when plays broke down.

RUNNING BACKS

RB Beanie Wells became

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS
CB William Gay, S James Sanders, OG Adam Snyder.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES
S Sean Considine, OG Rex Hadnot, CB Richard Marshall, WR Chansi Stuckey.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
WR Larry Fitzgerald

DEFENSIVE MVP
DE Calais Campbell

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
LILB Daryl Washington

POSITION BATTLE
LCB: Open competition

L. FITZGERALD

C. CAMPBELL

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C-	B	B+	D	B+	C+	B	A-

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	Seattle	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 16	at New England	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Philadelphia	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 30	Miami	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 4	at St. Louis	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 14	Buffalo	4:05 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 29	San Francisco	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	at Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	BYE	
Nov. 18	at Atlanta	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	St. Louis	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 2	at NY Jets	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Seattle	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 16	Detroit	4:05 p.m.
Dec. 23	Chicago	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 30	at San Francisco	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to Arizona

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Carolina	(-7)	28-21
Sept. 18	At Washington	(+4.5)	21-22
Sept. 25	At Seattle	(-3)	10-13
Oct. 2	New York Giants	(+1)	27-31
Oct. 9	At Minnesota	(+3.5)	10-34
Oct. 16	BYE		
Oct. 23	Pittsburgh	(+4)	20-32
Oct. 30	At Baltimore	(+11.5)	27-30
Nov. 6	St. Louis	(-1)	19-13*
Nov. 13	At Philadelphia	(+13)	21-17
Nov. 20	At San Francisco	(+10)	7-23
Nov. 27	At St. Louis	(+2.5)	23-20
Dec. 4	Dallas	(+4.5)	19-13*
Dec. 11	San Francisco	(+3.5)	21-19
Dec. 18	Cleveland	(-6)	20-17*
Dec. 24	At Cincinnati	(+4)	16-23
Jan. 1	Seattle	(-2.5)	23-20*

* Overtime

the first Cardinal running back in team history to rush for 1,000 yards (1,047) and 10 touchdowns. Silencing critics who claimed he was soft, Wells missed only two games, despite a knee injury he suffered in Week Six that diminished his strength, explosiveness and ability to make defenders miss. When healthy, Wells is more likely to run defenders over before trying to dodge them. Before his injury, he was running harder and lower to the ground and cutting upfield quicker than in his previous two seasons. The ground game is expected to get a big boost from Ryan Williams, who missed his entire rookie campaign after tearing the patellar tendon in his right knee in a preseason game vs. Green Bay. Before he went down, the Cardinals' 2011 No. 2 pick wowed the team with his ability to change directions without losing much speed. The Cardinals would like to get more mileage out of shifty third-down back LaRod Stephens-Howling, a bona fide big-play threat who had TD receptions of 73 and 52 yards last season and is one of just seven players in franchise history with at least four TDs of 70-plus yards. No. 4 RB Alfonso Smith has a slender build, but he is very fast and has displayed flashes between the tackles. FB Anthony Sherman, a fifth-round draft pick in 2011, proved to be a steady lead blocker before suffering a season-ending ankle injury.

▶ RECEIVERS

WR Larry Fitzgerald was better than ever in 2011, averaging a career-best 17.6 yards per reception, nearly three yards higher than his previous season high (in 2008). Earning a fifth straight Pro Bowl selection after a franchise-record fifth straight 1,000-yard season, Fitzgerald also established a career high and tied Detroit's Calvin Johnson and the Giants' Victor Cruz for the league lead with 17 catches of 25-plus yards. Fitzgerald has an unrivaled feel for locating the ball in the air, superb hand-eye coordination and tremendous concentration. A meticulous student of the game, he is usually the first in line in practice drills, goes full speed all the time and has grown into a willing team leader. First-round rookie Michael Floyd, who came highly recommended by Fitzgerald, is the top candidate for the No. 2 WR role. Similar in size and strength to Fitzgerald, Floyd also has the same kind of knack for beating press coverage and making catches in traffic. Andre Roberts was inconsistent in the No. 2 role last season, catching only four passes in one four-game stretch before coming on late in the season. Cardinals coaches seem to think Roberts was limited by Kevin Kolb's inability to recognize him in a new system, and they're counting on Roberts having a much better rapport with Kolb in 2012. No. 3 WR Early Doucet had no such problems, setting career highs with 54 catches for 689 yards and five TDs while playing in all 16 games after being limited by injuries the previous two seasons. Doucet had a couple of critical drops in 2011, but he's a strong, fearless receiver who can stop and start quickly and do some damage after the catch. Todd Heap, Jeff King, Rob Housler and Jim Dray provide a lot of manpower at tight end. Heap, a former quality starter in Baltimore, and Housler, who figures to be the tight end in three-wide sets with his sure hands and 4.5 40 speed, were both limited by hamstring injuries last season. King, primarily a blocker for the run game, did catch three TD passes in 2011.

▶ OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

OLT Levi Brown, who signed a new five-year deal, has never fully lived up to his first-round billing. But he is a durable, big-bodied, middle-tier tackle and a decent run blocker who played the best football of his career the second half of last season. At right tackle, fourth-round rookie Bobby Massie would appear to have a leg up on holdovers Jeremy Bridges and D'Anthony Batiste. Massie has great size and very good athletic ability. OLG Daryn Colledge, a free-agent addition last offseason formerly with the Packers, started all 16 games for a fourth straight season and overcame some early struggles learning a new system. Free-agent pickup Adam Snyder is expected to take over at right guard, where he did a solid job last season for the Niners while replacing an ineffective Chilo Rachal. But Snyder has played every position on the line and could possibly be in the running at right tackle, pending further moves. C Lyle Sendlein was the most reliable offensive lineman in 2011. Named a team captain for a second straight year, Sendlein gutted out an early-season elbow injury and displayed great toughness as the line's steady anchor. Rookies Senio Kelemete and Nate Potter add depth at guard and tackle, respectively.

DEFENSE

The offense's ineffectiveness initially put undue strain on coordinator Ray Horton's "Steelers West" 3-4 scheme, which emphasizes steady pressure from everywhere on the field. But in the last nine games last season, the defense allowed only 12 TDs. Horton is hoping for a big increase in takeaways (only 10 interceptions, nine fumble recoveries last season).

▶ DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Ends in a 3-4 system with double-digit sack potential are a rare commodity, but that's the bill that franchised DE Calais Campbell fills in the desert. The Cardinals' tallest player at 6-8, 300 pounds, Campbell has shown steady improvement, either leading or tying for the team lead in sacks the past three seasons. Campbell is an

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	CAR.	@WASH.	@SEA.	N.Y.G.	@MINN.	PITT.	@BALT.	ST.L.	@PHIL.	@S.F.	@ST.L.	DALL.	S.F.	CLEV.	@CIN.	SEA.	
Score	28-21	21-22	10-13	27-31	10-34	20-32	27-30	19-13	21-17	7-23	23-20	19-13	21-19	20-17	16-23	23-20	
Total net yards	394	324	324	368	291	330	207	262	370	229	374	327	325	363	316	388	5192
Rushing yards	99	93	90	156	77	73	109	70	88	80	268	103	55	74	59	131	1625
Passing yards	295	231	234	212	214	257	98	192	282	149	106	224	270	289	257	257	3567
Rushing plays	25	15	28	32	24	19	30	17	29	11	38	25	23	24	18	31	389
Sacks allowed	2	3	3	4	4	2	6	3	4	2	3	5	2	4	5	2	54
Had intercepted	0	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	1	3	1	23
Fumbles lost	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	9
Yards penalized	61	97	20	118	64	74	92	45	66	75	30	41	45	13	87	76	1004
Punts	5	6	5	4	5	4	6	6	6	6	5	7	7	7	6	7	92
OPPONENT STATISTICS																	
Time of poss.***	32:47	38:30	28:11	28:01	28:59	35:47	29:42	35:48	28:18	44:16	26:01	31:57	30:56	29:23	31:39	29:18	31:49
Total net yards	477	455	261	360	332	445	405	383	289	431	272	336	233	333	301	369	5682
Rushing yards	74	172	122	54	172	91	107	150	166	164	86	75	90	120	165	178	1986
Passing yards	403	283	139	306	160	354	298	233	123	267	186	261	143	213	136	191	3696
Rushing plays	27	35	30	24	37	28	26	35	24	49	22	20	21	29	34	34	475
Sacks allowed	4	1	4	1	1	2	3	4	2	0	2	5	5	2	2	4	42
Had intercepted	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Fumbles lost	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	9
Yards penalized	74	15	39	55	35	69	99	71	97	87	49	49	35	74	47	55	950
Punts	7	3	8	5	4	3	5	7	8	3	7	5	7	7	5	8	92

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Kolb	4-(-1)-0		3-16-0	2-1-0	2-10-0	2-14-0	1-5-0					3-20-0					17-65-0
Skelton								4-38-0	4-15-0		3-18-0		6-25-0	2-7-0	4-6-0	5-19-0	28-128-0
Smith			17-54-0	2-16-0	1-2-0	5-17-1	1-1-0				3-12-0			1-0-0			30-102-1
Stephens-Howling	3-10-0			1-1-0	1-5-0		5-17-0	1-4-0	1-(-1)-0	1-4-0	2-9-0	2-16-0	2-3-0	3-6-0		21-93-0	43-167-0
Taylor		1-0-0	8-20-0				1-3-0	2-8-0		1-34-0	2-1-0			2-3-0		3-8-1	20-77-1
B. Wells	18-90-1	14-93-1		27-138-3	20-60-1	12-42-0	22-83-1	10-20-0	23-62-0	8-33-0	27-228-1	20-67-1	15-27-0	15-51-1	14-53-0		245-1047-10

PASSING **

Kolb	18-27-0 309-2	17-30-1 251-2	25-39-2 252-1	20-34-1 237-0	21-42-2 232-0	18-34-1 272-2	10-21-1 153-1					16-25-0 247-1	1-1-0 2-0				146-253-8 1955-9
Skelton								20-35-0 222-1	21-40-2 315-3	6-19-3 99-0	12-23-2 114-0		19-28-2 282-3	28-46-1 313-1	23-44-3 297-2	22-40-1 271-1	151-275-14 1913-11

RECEIVING

Doucet	3-105-1	2-20-0	5-50-0	3-42-0	8-92-0	5-30-1	2-20-1	6-78-0	2-24-1	6-50-0	1-14-0	2-0-0	3-73-1	3-37-0	2-47-0	1-7-0	54-689-5
Fitzgerald	3-62-0	7-133-1	5-64-1	8-102-0	4-66-0	4-78-0	3-98-0	4-43-1	7-146-2	3-41-1	3-55-0	4-55-0	7-149-1	3-65-0	6-105-1	9-149-0	80-1411-8
Heap	2-40-0	1-8-0	6-61-0	4-41-0										7-69-0	2-29-0	2-35-1	24-283-1
Housler				1-16-0	3-25-0	2-28-0	1-3-0					2-23-0			1-11-0	2-27-0	12-133-0
King	2-61-1	2-36-1		1-3-0	5-35-0	1-10-0	3-29-0		4-26-0		2-17-0		3-16-0	1-24-0	1-2-1	2-12-0	27-271-3
Roberts	2-21-0	3-30-0	4-38-0		3-36-0	1-8-0		5-55-0	4-55-0	3-51-0	2-14-0	6-111-0	2-8-1	6-60-1	6-75-0	4-24-0	51-586-2
Sherman	1-6-0		1-6-0	2-24-0		1-15-0					1-4-0			1-6-0		1-11-0	8-72-0
Stephens-Howling	1-2-0			1-9-0		2-76-1			2-39-0		1-14-0	1-52-1	2-22-0	2-18-0	1-2-0		13-234-2
Taylor			1-12-0				1-3-0	1-8-0	1-17-0		2-(-4)-0		2-13-0	3-17-0	2-19-0	1-6-0	14-91-0
B. Wells	4-12-0							2-13-0				1-6-0	1-3-0	1-10-0	1-8-0		10-52-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

extremely hard worker with an imposing wingspan that comes in very handy for deflecting passes and also blocking kicks (three blocked field goals in 2011). But due to his height, he struggles at times to stay low at the line of scrimmage and maintain leverage. All-Pro DT Darnell Dockett was asked to contain his gaps and read and react more in the Cardinals' new system rather than just constantly attack, which is what he did before last season. But Dockett became more productive as the season progressed, recording three sacks in the last five games. Dating back to 2004, no player at his position has appeared in more games (127) than Dockett. NT Dan Williams was a disappointment last season. His weight ballooned to 357, and he was often outplayed by David Carter, a pleasant surprise with a chip on his shoulder who could challenge Williams for a starting job this season. Williams was just starting to play better when he suffered a season-ending broken arm in Week 11. Backups Nick Eason and Vonnie Holliday (if he re-signs) provide a valuable veteran presence.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Michael Floyd	WR	Notre Dame	13
3	Jamell Fleming	CB	Oklahoma	80
4	Bobby Massie	OT	Mississippi	112
5	Senio Kelemete	OG	Washington	151
6	Justin Bethel	FS	Presbyterian	177
6	Ryan Lindley	QB	San Diego State	185
7	Nate Potter	OT	Boise State	221

M. FLOYD

LINEBACKERS

The Cardinals are well-stocked inside with the trio of Daryl Washington, Paris Lenon and Stewart Bradley. The speedy Washington made major strides in his second season and could be a star in the making. A good open-field tackler with tremendous range, Washington has a knack for making plays without having to take blockers on. With his long arms and excellent change-of-direction skills, he also keeps getting better in coverage. The 34-year-old Lenon displays steady toughness and leadership. A quiet, serious student of the game who has missed only one game in his 10-year career, Lenon has had a major influence on Washington. Lenon could be pushed by Bradley, who spent his first season with the team as a backup after moving from the Eagles' 4-3, where his responsibilities were much different, especially in coverage. ROLB Sam Acho is a quick study who converted from end in college and came on strong in 10 starts as a rookie last season, replacing the injured Joey Porter. Acho displayed a real knack for being in the right place at the right time but needs to harness his nonstop energy when dropping into coverage. O'Brien Schofield, who also improved after making too many mental mistakes early last season, is expected to have a good shot at replacing veteran free agent Clark Haggans, who will likely be eventually re-signed to fill a valuable reserve role after starting every game last year and finishing with 46 tackles. Reggie Walker, who signed a new two-year deal, is a key reserve inside.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

RCB Patrick Peterson, the Cardinals' top draft pick in 2011, was picked on early but made steady progress. A gifted athlete with a freakishly strong lower body, he has great speed and outstanding lateral quickness. Peterson also has excellent length and jumping ability, but he needs to control his hands better and cut down on ill-timed penalties. A wide-open battle could be in the offing at left cornerback between Greg Toler, former starter A.J. Jefferson, third-round rookie Jamell Fleming and free-agent pickup William Gay, who started 15 games for the Steelers last season. Toler will be attempting to regain a starting role after missing last season with a torn left ACL. The team loves Fleming's toughness, versatility and closing ability. Entering his

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	11 FITZGERALD	12 Roberts	83 J. Johnson	
OLT	75 BROWN	74 Batiste	76 Potter*	
OLG	71 COLLEDGE	64 Kelemete*		
C	63 SENDLEIN	62 Bartholomew		
ORG	68 SNYDER	64 Kelemete*		
ORT	70 MASSIE*	73 Bridges		
TE	86 HEAP	87 King	84 Housler	
WR	15 FLOYD*	85 Doucet	10 Sampson	
QB	4 KOLB	19 J. Skelton	2 Bartel	
RB	26 WELLS	34 R. Williams	36 Stephens-Howling	
FB	35 SHERMAN			
DEFENSE				
DE	93 CAMPBELL	96 Talley		
NT	92 D. WILLIAMS	79 Carter	95 Lumpkin	
DT	90 DOCKETT	98 Eason		
ROLB	94 ACHO	59 B. Williams		
RILB	51 LENON	55 Bradley		
LILB	58 WASHINGTON	56 Walker	52 Sturdivant	
LOLB	50 SCHOFIELD	57 Coleman		
RCB	21 PETERSON	27 Adams	23 Gay	
LCB	28 TOLER	20 Jefferson	29 Fleming*	
SS	24 A. WILSON	39 Sanders	31 Bethel*	
FS	25 RHODES	49 R. Johnson		
SPECIALISTS				
P	9 ZASTUDIL			
PK	3 FEELY			
H	9 ZASTUDIL			
PR	21 PETERSON	12 Roberts		
KR	36 STEPHENS-HOWLING	20 Jefferson		
LS	82 LEACH			

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Ron Aiken, defensive line; Pete Alosi, asst. strength and conditioning; Louie Cioffi, defensive backs; Chad Grimm, offensive quality control; Russ Grimm, asst. head coach/offensive line; Ray Horton, defensive coordinator; Freddie Kitchens, tight ends; John Lott, strength and conditioning; John McNulty, quarterbacks; Mike Miller, offensive coordinator; Matt Raich, linebackers; Frank Reich, wide receivers; Tommie Robinson, running backs; Ryan Slowik, outside linebackers; Kevin Spencer, special teams; Deshea Townsend, asst. defensive backs; Ken Whisenhunt, head coach.

12th season with the Cardinals, making him the team's longest-tenured player, SS Adrian Wilson played 1,134 snaps (an NFL high for defensive players) despite playing the entire 2011 season with a torn right biceps tendon, which speaks volumes about his toughness. Admittedly not playing well early in the season, Wilson regained his Pro Bowl form as the season progressed in a more conventional safety role. Starting FS Kerry Rhodes, the team's top playmaker two seasons ago, was off to another fast start with 24 tackles and two sacks through the first five games when he suffered a broken foot in Week Five at Minnesota, which forced him to miss the next eight games. Insurance at safety will be provided by free-agent pickup James Sanders, a regular for the Patriots in 2007-08 who started six games last year for Atlanta. Gay, Sanders and feisty CB Michael Adams are savvy veteran backups. Inconsistent S Rashad Johnson and rookie Justin Bethel add depth. The team hopes Bethel, who has shown playmaking ability, can play both safety and cornerback and be a key on special teams.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Start with Patrick Peterson, who tied an NFL record and set a new team record with four punt returns for TDs. Giving the Bears' Devin Hester a run for his money as the league's most dangerous return man, Peterson became the first player in league history to post four punt-return TDs of 80-plus yards in a season. LaRod Stephens-Howling does a solid job returning kickoffs. PK Jay Feely, P Dave Zastudil and LS Mike Leach are seasoned veterans, each of whom signed new deals after performing respectably for the most part in 2011. Zastudil missed one game last year due to knee swelling and also played through a torn biceps tendon.

SUMMARY

The Cardinals' defense looks good enough to keep Arizona in most games in 2012, and Peterson provides a very special dimension on punt returns. But if the offense continues to shoot mostly blanks with Kevin Kolb under center, the Cardinals will probably be looking at a second straight near-.500 finish.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
94	Acho, Sam	OLB	6-3	257	2	Texas	16/10
27	Adams, Michael	CB	5-8	181	6	Louisiana-Lafayette	15/1
13	Arukwe, Stanley	WR	6-0	184	R	Troy	
2	Bartel, Richard	QB	6-3	230	4	Tarleton State (Texas)	2/0
62	Bartholomew, Ryan	C	6-1	310	1	Syracuse	0/0
74	Batiste, D'Anthony	OT	6-4	314	7	Louisiana-Lafayette	3/0
31	Bethel, Justin	S	6-0	190	R	Presbyterian (S.C.)	
46	Binns, Broderick	LB	6-2	261	R	Iowa	
55	Bradley, Stewart	ILB	6-4	258	6	Nebraska	16/1
73	Bridges, Jeremy	OT	6-5	318	10	Southern Mississippi	16/5
75	Brown, Levi	OT	6-6	324	6	Penn State	16/16
22	Butler, Crezdon	CB	6-0	191	3	Clemson	1/0
17	Byrd, LaRon	WR	6-4	220	R	Miami (Fla.)	
93	Campbell, Calais	DE	6-8	300	5	Miami (Fla.)	16/16
79	Carter, David	DT	6-5	300	2	UCLA	16/0
60	Clayson, Braeden	OG	6-6	300	R	Idaho State	
57	Coleman, Antonio	OLB	6-1	273	3	Auburn	3/0
71	Colledge, Daryn	OG	6-4	308	7	Boise State	16/16
38	Crank, Jared	FB	6-2	238	R	Purdue	
65	DeChristiopher, Blake	OG	6-5	311	R	Virginia Tech	
90	Dockett, Darnell	DT	6-4	290	9	Florida State	16/16
85	Doucet, Early	WR	6-0	212	5	LSU	16/6
81	Dray, Jim	TE	6-5	255	3	Stanford	10/0
98	Eason, Nick	DT	6-3	305	10	Clemson	16/6
3	Feely, Jay	PK	5-10	208	12	Michigan	16/0
69	Finau, Tevita	DE	6-4	283	R	Utah	
11	Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	218	9	Pittsburgh	16/16
29	Fleming, Jamell	CB	5-11	206	R	Oklahoma	
15	Floyd, Michael	WR	6-3	225	R	Notre Dame	
23	Gay, William	CB	5-10	190	6	Louisville	16/15
37	Gideon, Blake	S	6-1	205	R	Texas	
16	Gray, Tre	WR	5-10	175	R	Richmond	
30	Green, Marshay	CB	5-10	175	3	Mississippi	1/0
86	Heap, Todd	TE	6-5	252	12	Arizona State	10/4
84	Housler, Rob	TE	6-5	250	2	Florida Atlantic	12/2
20	Jefferson, A.J.	CB	6-1	190	3	Fresno State	16/7
83	Johnson, Jaymar	WR	6-0	176	3	Jackson State	1/0
49	Johnson, Rashad	S	5-11	204	4	Alabama	16/9
64	Kelemete, Senio	OG	6-4	301	R	Washington	
87	King, Jeff	TE	6-3	260	7	Virginia Tech	16/10
4	Kolb, Kevin	QB	6-3	218	6	Houston	9/9
82	Leach, Mike	LS	6-2	235	13	William & Mary	16/0
51	Lenon, Paris	ILB	6-2	240	11	Richmond	16/16
14	Lindley, Ryan	QB	6-4	230	R	San Diego State	
32	Lindsey, Korey	CB	5-10	194	2	Southern Illinois	0/0
95	Lumpkin, Ricky	DT	6-4	306	1	Kentucky	0/0
70	Massie, Bobby	OT	6-6	316	R	Mississippi	
52	McGraw, Marcus	LB	6-0	228	R	Houston	
43	Nash, Zack	LB	6-4	260	R	Sacramento State	
38	Nixon, James	CB	6-1	190	R	California (Pa.)	
78	Obi, Conrad	DE	6-3	290	R	Colorado	
97	Parker, Colin	LB	6-1	223	R	Arizona State	
21	Peterson, Patrick	CB	6-1	219	2	LSU	16/16
76	Potter, Nate	OT	6-6	300	R	Boise State	
33	Powell, William	RB	5-9	205	1	Kansas State	0/0
25	Rhodes, Kerry	S	6-3	212	8	Louisville	7/7
12	Roberts, Andre	WR	5-11	195	3	The Citadel	16/16
10	Sampson, DeMarco	WR	6-2	204	2	San Diego State	12/0
39	Sanders, James	S	5-10	210	8	Fresno State	15/6
50	Schofield, O'Brien	OLB	6-3	242	3	Wisconsin	16/0
63	Sendlein, Lyle	C	6-3	308	6	Texas	16/16
35	Sherman, Anthony	FB	5-10	242	2	Connecticut	15/7
19	Skelton, John	QB	6-6	244	3	Fordham	8/7
44	Skelton, Steve	TE	6-5	250	1	Fordham	0/0
46	Smith, Alfonso	RB	6-1	208	3	Kentucky	15/0
68	Snyder, Adam	OG	6-6	325	8	Oregon	16/13
36	Stephens-Howling, LaRod	RB	5-7	185	4	Pittsburgh	14/1
61	Stewart, Chris	OG	6-4	325	1	Notre Dame	0/0
52	Sturdivant, Quan	ILB	6-1	241	1	North Carolina	0/0
96	Talley, Ronald	DE	6-3	286	2	Delaware	6/0
28	Toler, Greg	CB	6-0	192	4	Saint Paul's (Va.)	0/0
48	Vassallo, Paul	LB	6-3	247	R	Arizona	
56	Walker, Reggie	ILB	6-0	244	4	Kansas State	16/0
58	Washington, Daryl	ILB	6-2	230	3	TCU	15/14
48	Webb, Martell	TE	6-3	276	1	Michigan	0/0
66	Wedige, Scott	C	6-4	310	R	Northern Illinois	
26	Wells, Beanie	RB	6-2	229	4	Ohio State	14/14
59	Williams, Brandon	OLB	6-3	250	3	Texas Tech	0/0
92	Williams, Dan	DT	6-2	327	3	Tennessee	10/10
80	Williams, Isaiah	WR	6-3	200	1	Maryland	0/0
34	Williams, Ryan	RB	5-9	207	2	Virginia Tech	0/0
18	Williams, Stephen	WR	6-5	208	3	Toledo	2/0
24	Wilson, Adrian	S	6-3	230	12	North Carolina State	16/16
89	Wilson, Marc	WR	5-11	190	R	St. Anselm (N.H.)	
67	Young, D.J.	OT	6-5	298	1	Michigan State	0/0
9	Zastudil, Dave	P	6-3	220	11	Ohio	15/0

4 ST. LOUIS Rams

2012 PREDICTION: 4-12 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC WEST)*
2011 RECORD: 2-14 *(FOURTH PLACE IN NFC WEST)*

TEAM PROFILE

J. FISHER

HEAD COACH: Jeff Fisher
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Brian Schottenheimer
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: None
OWNER: Stan Kroenke
STADIUM: Edward Jones Dome | **CAPACITY:** 66,000
PLAYING SURFACE: FieldTurf
OFFICIAL WEB SITE: www.stlouisrams.com

After an awful 2-14 season sent Steve Spagnuolo packing, the Rams reached out to former Titans head coach Jeff Fisher, who was also hotly pursued by the Dolphins, to return to the head-coaching ranks after a one-year hiatus.

The Rams' new "Big Three" (Fisher, new GM Les Snead and executive vice president of football operations Kevin Demoff) have their work cut for them, attempting to resurrect a team that was an almost immediate disaster on both sides of the ball last season.

After going to great pains to have a quality coaching staff in place before seriously pursuing a general manager, the Rams were dealt a stunning blow when Gregg Williams, the team's new defensive coordinator as well as one of Fisher's best friends, was suspended indefinitely after being exposed as the ringleader of a bounty system as the Saints' defensive coordinator that financially rewarded defenders for injuring opponents.

But one week after "Bountygate" was revealed, the Rams picked themselves up and pulled off a blockbuster trade that bodes well for their future, trading the second overall pick in the 2012 draft to the Redskins for Washington's first-round picks in '12, '13 and '14, as well as the 'Skins' No. 2 pick this year.

The Rams also have been one of the league's more aggressive teams in free agency, signing Cortland Finnegan, who was widely considered the top cornerback available, and Scott Wells, who was generally considered the top center.

SPORTPICS
CHRIS LONG

OFFENSE

Both Jeff Fisher and new coordinator Brian Schottenheimer like physical, power running attacks that control the clock and set up an efficient play-action passing game. After not having a QB coach last year under coordinator Josh McDaniels, Sam Bradford should benefit from Frank Cignetti filling that role in 2012.

▶ QUARTERBACKS

After having played every snap as a rookie, Sam Bradford was physically handicapped much of last season, missing six games due to a high ankle sprain that wasn't fully healed until two months after the season. Bradford was also mentally handicapped by a new system that required him to adjust the pass protection, which he did not have to do during his impressive rookie campaign. A rhythm passer, Bradford was at his best as a rookie making quick reads and short, precise throws. But there was more of an emphasis on deeper passes in Josh McDaniels' system, which took longer to develop. With the offensive line under more duress, Bradford was steadily pressured, getting sacked 36 times in 10 starts. He also held on to the ball too long and did not check down nearly enough, while his ankle injury altered his mechanics. But Jeff Fisher firmly believes Bradford can regain his rookie form, despite having to adapt to his third different system in three years. Kellen Clemens, who did a decent job out of the bullpen

COMINGS & GOINGS

KEY VETERAN ARRIVALS

OLB Jo-Lonn Dunbar, CB Cortland Finnegan, DT Kendall Langford, WR Steve Smith, C Scott Wells.

KEY VETERAN DEPARTURES

CB Ron Bartell, OL Jacob Brown, DE James Hall, P Donnie Jones, WR Brandon Lloyd, DT Fred Robbins.

PLAYER PROJECTIONS

OFFENSIVE MVP
RB Steven Jackson

DEFENSIVE MVP
DLE Chris Long

BREAKTHROUGH PLAYER
DRE Robert Quinn

POSITION BATTLE
WLB: Open competition

QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST
C+	B	C-	C	C	C	C+	D+

late in the season and played under Brian Schottenheimer with the Jets, is the top backup candidate.

▶ RUNNING BACKS

Hard-running three-time Pro Bowler Steven Jackson shapes up as a good fit for the run-heavy offense the Rams have in mind for 2012. A relentless sledgehammer with a rare blend of speed, size and power, Jackson ran for more than 1,000 yards (1,145) for a seventh straight year — the longest active streak in the NFL, as well as a team record. He did so despite missing much of the first three games with a quad injury suffered at the end of a 47-yard off-tackle TD romp on the Rams' first offensive play of the season. Jackson also finished second on the team last season with 42 catches. Jackson will be backed up by rookies Isaiah Pead, a speedy scatback with a good short-area burst and change of direction, and Daryl Richardson, a productive back at the Division II level. FB Brit Miller, a linebacker in college, has been a solid lead blocker most of the past two seasons while also ranking as one of the top special-teamers. Yet, knee injuries caused Miller to miss the final two games in 2010 and the final four games in '11.

▶ RECEIVERS

The Rams would love for rookie WRs Brian Quick (second round) and Chris Givens (fourth round) to provide the same kind of potent 1-2 punch that WRs DeSean Jackson and Jeremy Maclin, respectively, deliver for the Eagles. Quick gives Sam Bradford a big target with tremendous big-play potential. Givens, one of the faster players at the Scouting Combine, will duel holdover Danario Alexander (team-high 16.6 yards per catch last year) for the deep-threat role. Alexander has undergone five knee operations and missed six games last season with a hamstring injury. The only sure thing in the team's receiving corps is solid slot receiver Danny Amendola, a favorite target of Bradford who suffered a costly season-ending elbow and triceps injury in last year's opening game. Amendola, a master at working the seams, led the league in all-purpose yardage two seasons ago (2,364). A host of pass catchers could figure in the mix, led by Steve Smith, a productive Pro Bowler with the Giants before knee injuries took their toll the past two seasons (microfracture surgery on his left knee in December 2010). When he's right, Smith is a smart, smooth route runner who can get in and out of his breaks with no wasted motion and line up in multiple fronts. Other possible receivers include serviceable Brandon Gibson, who lacks breakaway speed but can make tough catches, and second-year possession receivers Austin Pettis and Greg Salas. Salas, who suffered a broken leg in Week Eight, was a bit smoother and better at picking up yards after the catch than Pettis, who will start the season on a two-game suspension for violating the league's policy regarding performance-enhancing substances. Like Pettis and Salas, second-year TE Lance Kendricks is a talented but flawed work in progress. After catching everything in sight in the preseason, Kendricks leveled off and dropped too many passes. The hope is that he and third-year pro Michael Hoomanawanui, who has great hands but is yet another Rams receiver who has had all kinds of problems staying healthy (eight games missed last season), will provide more pop from the TE position.

▶ OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Free-agent pickup Scott Wells is a Pro Bowl center who adds great stability to a young, developing unit that was dogged by injuries in 2011. Wells offers durability (only six missed games in his eight-year career), tremendous intelligence, nonstop hustle and near-perfect technique. The team is hoping for bounce-back seasons from OTs Rodger Saffold and Jason Smith on the left and right side, respectively. Saffold was mired in a baffling sophomore slump most of last season before missing the last seven games with a torn pectoral muscle suffered while lifting weights. False starts were a big problem for Saffold, who had been a pleasant surprise as a rookie starter. Smith, the team's top pick in 2009, remains a major medical risk, having played in only 29 games over three seasons due to injuries. Concussion issues limited him to six games last season, and when he did play, he provided decent run blocking, which is his strength, but was beaten routinely off the edge. Ex-Falcon Harvey Dahl was the only starting lineman to appear in every game last season. Dahl provided a physical, nasty presence at right guard before playing surprisingly well as the starter at right tackle the last month of the season. A host of contenders are lined up for the wide-open OLG spot, including Bryan Mattison, who started the last four games in 2011 at right guard after being claimed off waivers from the Ravens; free-agent pickups Quinn Ojinnaka and Robert Turner; and rookie Rokevious Watkins.

DEFENSE

The Rams are planning on a collaborative effort to replace suspended coordinator Gregg Williams. Head coach Jeff Fisher and/or assistant head coach Dave McGinnis will likely call the plays for what figures to be an attacking 4-3 scheme featuring multiple looks and disguised coverages.

▶ DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

DLE Chris Long had a Pro Bowl-caliber 2011 season, playing through nagging injuries to post 13 sacks

2012 SCHEDULE

All times Eastern

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 9	at Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Washington	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Chicago	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	Seattle	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	Arizona	8:20 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Miami	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Green Bay	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	New England	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	BYE	
Nov. 11	at San Francisco	4:15 p.m.
Nov. 18	NY Jets	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Arizona	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 2	San Francisco	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Minnesota	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	at Tampa Bay	1:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Seattle	4:15 p.m.

2011 RESULTS

Pointspread refers to St. Louis

DATE	OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE
Sept. 11	Philadelphia	(+4)	13-31
Sept. 19	At New York Giants	(+7)	16-28
Sept. 25	Baltimore	(+5.5)	7-37
Oct. 2	Washington	(+3)	10-17
Oct. 9	BYE		
Oct. 16	At Green Bay	(+14)	3-24
Oct. 23	At Dallas	(+14)	7-34
Oct. 30	New Orleans	(+13.5)	31-21
Nov. 6	At Arizona	(+1)	13-19*
Nov. 13	At Cleveland	(+3)	13-12
Nov. 20	Seattle	(-3)	7-24
Nov. 27	Arizona	(-2.5)	20-23
Dec. 4	At San Francisco	(+14)	0-26
Dec. 12	At Seattle	(+8.5)	13-30
Dec. 18	Cincinnati	(+7)	13-20
Dec. 24	At Pittsburgh	(+10)	0-27
Jan. 1	San Francisco	(+12.5)	27-34

* Overtime

2011 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	WK 9	WK 10	WK 11	WK 12	WK 13	WK 14	WK 15	WK 16	WK 17	TOTALS
OPPONENT	**PHIL.**	**@N.Y.G.**	**BALT.**	**WASH.**	**@G.B.**	**@DALL.**	**N.O.**	**@ARIZ.**	**@CLEV.**	**SEA.**	**ARIZ.**	**@S.F.**	**@SEA.**	**CIN.**	**@PITT.**	**S.F.**	
Score	13-31	16-28	7-37	10-17	3-24	7-34	31-21	13-19	13-12	7-24	20-23	0-26	13-30	13-20	0-27	27-34	
Total net yards	335	367	244	172	424	265	323	383	281	185	272	157	281	305	232	311	4537
Rushing yards	154	59	112	45	118	70	183	150	133	42	86	31	114	95	164	111	1667
Passing yards	181	308	132	127	306	195	140	233	148	143	186	126	167	210	68	200	2870
Rushing plays	26	19	26	17	24	21	31	35	32	17	22	23	31	24	36	25	409
Sacks allowed	5	2	5	7	3	1	4	4	1	5	2	4	3	3	3	3	55
Had intercepted	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	10
Fumbles lost	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	13
Yards penalized	60	62	117	65	45	16	64	71	55	50	49	35	30	109	21	50	899
Punts	4	7	8	8	5	5	7	7	5	10	7	8	5	7	7	6	106

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Time of poss.***	30:14	34:12	31:11	35:10	29:19	33:56	28:37	24:12	32:27	35:00	33:59	36:04	31:29	30:03	29:15	35:08	31:53
Total net yards	403	323	553	339	399	445	283	262	335	289	374	389	359	283	377	321	5734
Rushing yards	236	119	168	196	90	294	56	70	126	126	268	144	145	110	169	116	2433
Passing yards	167	204	385	143	309	151	227	192	209	163	106	245	214	173	208	205	3301
Rushing plays	32	38	26	40	31	34	20	17	30	39	38	34	32	34	28	37	510
Sacks allowed	3	3	2	0	1	2	6	3	2	4	3	4	2	1	0	3	39
Had intercepted	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	12
Fumbles lost	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Yards penalized	91	55	32	96	16	30	32	45	60	100	30	72	61	101	50	80	951
Punts	3	7	2	7	5	3	7	6	5	9	5	5	3	5	4	5	81

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS *

RUSHING

Bradford	1-(-15)-0	3-15-0	3-22-0		2-0-0			1-2-0	4-3-0	2-0-0			2-(-1)-0				18-26-0
Clemens														2-9-0	2-10-0	2-18-1	6-37-1
S. Jackson	2-56-1		4-23-0	17-45-0	18-96-0	18-70-1	25-159-2	29-130-0	27-128-0	15-42-0	17-64-0	10-19-0	20-63-1	18-71-0	24-103-0	16-76-0	260-1145-5
Norwood	3-10-0	3-8-0									5-22-0	11-19-0	1-3-0	1-(-1)-0			24-61-0
C. Williams	19-91-0	13-36-0	18-75-0		3-17-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	3-17-0					8-49-0	3-16-0	9-42-0	7-17-1	87-361-1

PASSING **

Bradford	17-30-0 188-0	22-46-0 331-1	16-32-1 166-1	20-43-0 164-1	29-45-1 328-0			23-36-1 255-0	15-25-1 155-1	20-40-1 181-1	17-31-0 203-1		12-29-1 193-0				191-357-6 2164-6
Clemens														25-36-0 229-1	9-24-0 91-0	14-31-1 226-1	48-91-1 546-2
Feeley	1-5-0 21-0					20-33-1 196-0	20-37-0 175-1					12-22-1 156-0					53-97-2 548-1

RECEIVING

Alexander		3-122-1	2-28-0	3-46-0	6-91-0	2-9-0						1-10-0	1-12-0	3-52-1	2-25-0	3-36-0	26-431-2
B. Gibson	3-50-0	4-52-0	5-55-1	1-14-0	4-43-0		2-27-0	5-54-0		4-37-0	2-30-0	4-42-0	1-6-0			1-21-0	36-431-1
S. Jackson				4-19-1	4-29-0	4-3-0	4-32-0	1-12-0	3-23-0	3-19-0	3-14-0	1-11-0	3-60-0	9-72-0	2-24-0	1-15-0	42-333-1
Kendricks	1-18-0	1-26-0	2-25-0	4-33-0	4-71-0		1-2-0	1-7-0		2-21-0	3-37-0		1-26-0	3-19-0	2-13-0	3-54-0	28-352-0
Lloyd						6-74-0	6-53-1	5-80-0	4-48-1	5-67-1	5-74-1	1-34-0	5-82-0	5-42-0	3-29-0	6-100-1	51-683-5
Pettis			2-8-0	4-32-0			1-7-0	4-43-0	3-31-0	2-12-0	3-45-0	3-33-0	1-7-0	4-38-0			27-256-0
Salas	1-21-0	4-27-0			8-77-0	2-33-0	5-47-0	7-59-0									27-264-0
Sims-Walker	1-5-0	6-92-0	3-36-0	1-6-0													11-139-0
C. Williams	5-49-0	3-4-0	1-4-0		3-17-0	1-13-0								1-6-0			14-93-0

* Doesn't include all players. ** Passing stats include completions, attempts, interceptions, yards and touchdowns. *** Time of possession for OT games is prorated for 60-minute game.

(seventh in the NFL) and also lead the team in QB pressures (15) and QB hits (16). Long has come into his own since settling in on the left side. He is a hard worker who just hates to leave the field. The starter at right end is expected to be 2011 first-rounder Robert Quinn, who registered five sacks and 14 QB hits in 15 games while being groomed by veteran James Hall. Quinn is a natural sack artist with a dominant first step, but he needs to improve considerably vs. the run at the point of attack and not play so tall. The new right tackle is expected to be free-agent pickup Kendall Langford, a big, physical run stuffer who was a five-technique end in Miami's 3-4 scheme known for his ability to take on multiple blockers. The new starter at left tackle is expected to be first-round rookie Michael Brockers, a raw but dominant run stuffer with excellent explosiveness and impressive instincts. Depth is provided by Darell Scott, who has been a disappointment; free-agent pickups Trevor Laws and William Hayes; Eugene Sims; and Jermelle Cudjo.

2012 DRAFT PICKS

RD	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	PICK
1	Michael Brockers	DT	LSU	14
2	Brian Quick	WR	Appalachian State	33
2	Janoris Jenkins	CB	North Alabama	39
2	Isaiah Pead	RB	Cincinnati	50
3	Trumaine Johnson	CB	Montana	65
4	Chris Givens	WR	Wake Forest	96
5	Rokevious Watkins	OG	South Carolina	150
6	Greg Zuerlein	PK	Missouri Western	171
7	Aaron Brown	LB	Hawaii	209
7	Daryl Richardson	RB	Abilene Christian	252

M. BROCKERS

LINEBACKERS

Workaholic MLB James Laurinaitis led the team in tackles for the third time in as many seasons and seldom left the field, playing a team-high 1,052 snaps in 2011. A downhill, physical player who has steadily improved his coverage skills, Laurinaitis breaks down film of opponents nonstop in the week leading up to games and does an excellent job of managing games and directing traffic. The front-runner to start on the strong side is undersized but aggressive free-agent pickup Jo-Lonn Dunbar, who was a full-time starter for the first time last season both on the strong side and in the middle for the Saints. As for the weak side, the odds suggest the starter could come from the free-agent ranks. The possibilities at presstime were Justin Cole, third-year pro Josh Hull and rookie Aaron Brown. Cole was signed prior to Week 11 last season off the Chiefs' practice squad and appeared on special teams in four games. Hull had ankle problems late last season but has looked good early this offseason, according to Jeff Fisher. Brown is an explosive player who runs well.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Cortland Finnegan, who played under Jeff Fisher in Tennessee and was the Rams' top target in free agency, is a complete corner with terrific cover skills. Finnegan offers solid run support and has the flexibility to play inside. He plays with a definite edge, sometimes a bit too much, and should provide a great example for the Rams' younger defenders as a tempo-setting hitter. Also a punishing blitz option, Finnegan stays on the field and finishes every down. He's also been very durable despite his physical playing style — a noteworthy quality, considering the team's problems keeping cornerbacks on the field last season (six of the Rams' 16 players on injured reserve were corners). A spirited battle could be shaping up for the other starting CB role between holdover Bradley Fletcher and rookies Janoris Jenkins (second round) and Trumaine Johnson (third round). Fletcher has good size and long arms but is on the mend from his second major knee injury in three seasons. Jenkins, considered by many a top-10 first-round talent, is a gamble on greatness due to his well-documented red flags, mostly marijuana-related. In his three years at Florida, Jenkins held his own against the likes of Julio Jones

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	**83 QUICK***	11 S. Smith	11 Gibson
OLT	**76 SAFFOLD**	69 Ojinnaka	68 McKee
OLG	**67 MATTISON**	59 Turner	73 Watkins*
C	**63 WELLS**	61 Barnes	
ORG	**62 H. DAHL**	59 Turner	69 Ojinnaka
ORT	**77 J. SMITH**	69 Ojinnaka	68 McKee
TE	**88 KENDRICKS**	86 Hoomanawanui	82 Mulligan
WR	**16 AMENDOLA**	84 Alexander	13 Givens*
QB	**8 BRADFORD**	10 Clemens	12 Brandstater
HB	**39 JACKSON**	24 Pead*	26 Richardson*
FB	**49 MILLER**		
DEFENSE			
DLE	**72 LONG**	92 Sims	
DLT	**96 BROCKERS***	97 Scott	Laws
DRT	**70 LANGFORD**	97 Scott	93 Cudjo
DRE	**94 QUINN**	Hayes	
SLB	**57 DUNBAR**	50 Brown*	
MLB	**55 LAURINAITIS**	56 Hull	
WLB	**52 COLE**	56 Hull	50 Brown*
LCB	**31 FINNEGAN**	22 T. Johnson*	38 Gordy
RCB	**21 JENKINS***	32 Fletcher	23 Murphy
FS	**27 MIKELL**		
SS	**20 STEWART**	43 C. Dahl	
SPECIALISTS			
P	**2 MALONE**		
PK	**4 ZUERLEIN***		
H	**2 MALONE**		
PR	**18 PETTIS**	16 Amendola	
KR	**24 PEAD***	16 Amendola	
LS	**44 McQUAIDE**		

* ROOKIE

COACHING STAFF

Adam Bailey, asst. strength and conditioning; Rob Boras, tight ends; Paul Boudreau Jr., asst. special teams; Paul Boudreau Sr., offensive line; Joe Bowden, asst. linebackers; Chuck Cecil, secondary; Frank Cignetti, quarterbacks; Andy Dickerson, asst. offensive line; John Fassel, special teams; Brandon Fisher, asst. secondary; Jeff Fisher, head coach; Rock Gullickson, strength and conditioning; Dave McGinnis, asst. head coach; Brian Schottenheimer, offensive coordinator; Ben Sirmans, running backs; Ray Sherman, wide receivers; Clyde Simmons, offensive line; Andy Sugarman, offensive quality control; Mike Waufle, defensive line; Blake Williams, linebackers; Dennard Wilson, defensive quality control.

2012 ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	GP/GS
84	Alexander, Danario	WR	6-5	215	3	Missouri	10/4
16	Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	186	4	Texas Tech	1/1
90	Banks, Cornell	DT	6-2	310	1	Fresno State	0/0
61	Barnes, Tim	C	6-3	300	1	Missouri	0/0
8	Bradford, Sam	QB	6-4	228	3	Oklahoma	10/10
12	Brandstater, Tom	QB	6-5	222	3	Fresno State	1/0
96	Brockers, Michael	DT	6-6	306	R	LSU	
50	Brown, Aaron	LB	6-1	234	R	Hawaii	
42	Burney, Kendric	DB	5-9	190	1	North Carolina	0/0
10	Clemens, Kellen	QB	6-2	220	7	Oregon	3/3
52	Cole, Justin	LB	6-3	242	3	San Jose State	4/0
93	Cudjo, Jermelle	DT	6-2	299	3	Central Oklahoma	0/0
43	Dahl, Craig	S	6-1	209	6	North Dakota State	16/5
62	Dahl, Harvey	OG	6-5	305	7	Nevada	16/16
57	Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	226	5	Boston College	16/14
4	Feeley, A.J.	QB	6-3	220	12	Oregon	5/3
31	Finnegan, Cortland	CB	5-10	188	7	Samford	16/16
32	Fletcher, Bradley	CB	6-0	198	3	Iowa	4/4
11	Gibson, Brandon	WR	6-0	210	3	Washington State	15/9
13	Givens, Chris	WR	5-11	198	R	Wake Forest	
38	Gordy, Josh	CB	5-11	195	2	Central Michigan	14/9
41	Guidugli, Ben	TE	6-1	230	2	Cincinnati	0/0
	Hayes, William	DE	6-3	272	5	Winston-Salem State	10/1
86	Hoomanawanui, Michael	TE	6-4	264	2	Illinois	8/7
70	Hughes, Kevin	OT	6-4	300	2	Southeastern Louisiana	3/0
56	Hull, Josh	LB	6-3	239	2	Penn State	11/0
39	Jackson, Steven	RB	6-2	236	7	Oregon State	15/15
21	Jenkins, Janoris	CB	5-10	193	R	North Alabama	
22	Johnson, Trumaine	CB	6-1	204	R	Montana	
88	Kendricks, Lance	TE	6-3	247	2	Wisconsin	15/10
21	King, Justin	CB	5-11	188	4	Penn State	12/12
70	Langford, Kendall	DE	6-6	295	5	Hampton	16/12
55	Laurinaitis, James	MLB	6-2	247	3	Ohio State	16/16
	Laws, Trevor	DT	6-1	304	5	Notre Dame	14/1
1	Lindholm, Garrett	PK	5-9	190	R	Tarleton State (Texas)	
91	Long, Chris	DE	6-3	276	4	Virginia	16/16
2	Malone, Tom	P	6-0	205	1	USC	0/0
67	Mattison, Bryan	OG	6-3	310	3	Iowa	5/4
68	McKee, Ryan	OT	6-6	291	1	Southern Mississippi	0/0
82	McNeill, Mike	TE	6-4	235	2	Nebraska	0/0
44	McQuaide, Jake	LS	6-2	219	2	Ohio State	16/0
27	Mikell, Quintin	S	5-10	203	10	Boise State	16/16
49	Miller, Brit	FB	6-0	243	2	Illinois	12/2
82	Mulligan, Matthew	TE	6-4	265	4	Maine	16/9
23	Murphy, Jerome	CB	6-0	200	2	South Florida	0/0
69	Ojinnaka, Quinn	OG-OT	6-5	295	7	Syracuse	9/3
24	Pead, Isaiah	RB	5-11	200	R	Cincinnati	
18	Pettis, Austin	WR	6-2	209	2	Boise State	12/3
83	Quick, Brian	WR	6-5	220	R	Appalachian State	
94	Quinn, Robert	DE	6-4	265	2	North Carolina	15/1
30	Reynolds, Chase	RB	6-0	195	1	Montana	0/0
26	Richardson, Daryl	RB	5-10	192	R	Abilene Christian	
76	Saffold, Rodger	OT	6-5	323	3	Indiana	9/9
87	Salas, Greg	WR	6-1	209	2	Hawaii	6/1
97	Scott, Darell	DT	6-3	315	3	Clemson	13/0
92	Sims, Eugene	DE	6-6	250	3	West Texas A&M	16/0
77	Smith, Jason	OT	6-5	307	3	Baylor	6/6
11	Smith, Steve	WR	5-11	195	6	USC	9/1
20	Stewart, Darian	S	5-11	215	3	South Carolina	15/10
59	Turner, Robert	OG	6-4	308	6	New Mexico	0/0
73	Watkins, Rokevious	OG	6-4	340	R	South Carolina	
63	Wells, Scott	C	6-2	300	8	Tennessee	16/16
4	Zuerlein, Greg	PK	6-0	187	R	Missouri Western	

and A.J. Green before going on to dominate Division II competition. Johnson, who played at Montana with new assistant secondary coach Brandon Fisher (Jeff's son), is very physical with great ball skills, but he also has had off-the-field problems. Starting FS Quintin Mikell was the team's second-leading tackler in 2011. One of only three Rams defenders to start all 16 games, the former Eagle is a sure tackler who can play either inside or outside and provides a strong presence in the locker room. At strong safety, aggressive, rangy third-year pro Darian Stewart has the upper hand over veteran Craig Dahl, who was replaced as the full-time starter by Stewart in Week Three last season. Stewart has good natural instincts and poses a legitimate threat as a blitzer, but he needs to take better angles to the ball. Ex-Packer Josh Gordy, who registered a team-leading three interceptions last season, and Jerome Murphy add depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Rams' special teams offered very little in the way of field position in 2011 and specialized in often breaking down. Figuring they couldn't do any worse than last season, the Rams evidently will count on sixth-round rookie Greg Zuerlein as the new placekicker replacing Josh Brown, who was cut. Zuerlein set a Division II record by making 21 field goals in a row last season, including nine that were from 50-plus yards. Unproven Tom Malone is the front runner to be the new punter, replacing Donnie Jones, who left via free agency. Austin Pettis and rookie Isaiah Pead were the early favorites to return punts and kickoffs, respectively.

SUMMARY

It doesn't figure to take long for the Rams to become consistently competitive under Jeff Fisher, but there appear to be a few too many holes for them to be considered an immediate contender. Extenuating circumstances — most notably Gregg Williams' suspension and persistent rumors that team owner Stan Kroenke may have his sights set on the Los Angeles market — certainly won't help matters.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	DIV.	CONF.	ATS
New England	13	3	0	.813	513	342	7-1	6-2	5-1-0	10-2-0	9-7-0
New York Jets	8	8	0	.500	377	363	6-2	2-6	3-3-0	6-6-0	6-9-1
Miami	6	10	0	.375	329	313	4-4	2-6	3-3-0	5-7-0	8-7-1
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	372	434	5-3	1-7	1-5-0	4-8-0	7-9-0
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PF**	**PA**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**DIV.**	**CONF.**	**ATS**
Baltimore	12	4	0	.750	378	266	8-0	4-4	6-0-0	9-3-0	8-7-1
Pittsburgh	12	4	0	.750	325	227	7-1	5-3	4-2-0	9-3-0	7-9-0
Cincinnati	9	7	0	.563	344	323	4-4	5-3	2-4-0	6-6-0	8-6-2
Cleveland	4	12	0	.250	218	307	3-5	1-7	0-6-0	3-9-0	8-6-2
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PF**	**PA**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**DIV.**	**CONF.**	**ATS**
Houston	10	6	0	.625	381	278	5-3	5-3	4-2-0	8-4-0	10-5-1
Tennessee	9	7	0	.563	325	317	5-3	4-4	3-3-0	7-5-0	6-9-1
Jacksonville	5	11	0	.313	243	329	4-4	1-7	3-3-0	4-8-0	7-8-1
Indianapolis	2	14	0	.125	243	430	2-6	0-8	2-4-0	2-10-0	6-10-0
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PF**	**PA**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**DIV.**	**CONF.**	**ATS**
Denver	8	8	0	.500	309	390	3-5	5-3	3-3-0	6-6-0	7-8-1
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	406	377	5-3	3-5	3-3-0	7-5-0	6-10-0
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	359	433	3-5	5-3	3-3-0	6-6-0	9-6-1
Kansas City	7	9	0	.438	212	338	3-5	4-4	3-3-0	4-8-0	9-7-0

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	DIV.	CONF.	ATS
New York Giants	9	7	0	.563	394	400	4-4	5-3	3-3-0	5-7-0	8-8-0
Philadelphia	8	8	0	.500	396	328	3-5	5-3	5-1-0	6-6-0	8-8-0
Dallas	8	8	0	.500	369	347	5-3	3-5	2-4-0	6-6-0	5-10-1
Washington	5	11	0	.313	288	367	2-6	3-5	2-4-0	5-7-0	7-9-0
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PF**	**PA**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**DIV.**	**CONF.**	**ATS**
Green Bay	15	1	0	.938	560	359	8-0	7-1	6-0-0	12-0-0	11-5-0
Detroit	10	6	0	.625	474	387	5-3	5-3	3-3-0	6-6-0	7-8-1
Chicago	8	8	0	.500	353	341	5-3	3-5	3-3-0	7-5-0	7-8-1
Minnesota	3	13	0	.188	340	449	1-7	2-6	0-6-0	3-9-0	6-8-2
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PF**	**PA**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**DIV.**	**CONF.**	**ATS**
New Orleans	13	3	0	.813	547	339	8-0	5-3	5-1-0	9-3-0	12-4-0
Atlanta	10	6	0	.625	402	350	6-2	4-4	3-3-0	7-5-0	7-7-2
Carolina	6	10	0	.375	406	429	3-5	3-5	2-4-0	3-9-0	9-6-1
Tampa Bay	4	12	0	.250	287	494	3-5	1-7	2-4-0	3-9-0	4-12-0
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PCT.**	**PF**	**PA**	**HOME**	**AWAY**	**DIV.**	**CONF.**	**ATS**
San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	380	229	7-1	6-2	5-1-0	10-2-0	11-4-1
Arizona	8	8	0	.500	312	348	6-2	2-6	4-2-0	7-5-0	8-7-1
Seattle	7	9	0	.438	321	315	4-4	3-5	3-3-0	6-6-0	10-5-1
St. Louis	2	14	0	.125	193	407	1-7	1-7	0-6-0	1-11-0	3-12-1

POSTSEASON RESULTS

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS
Houston 31, Cincinnati 10
Denver 29, Pittsburgh 23 (OT)
New Orleans 45, Detroit 28
N.Y. Giants 24, Atlanta 2

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
New England 45, Denver 10
Baltimore 20, Houston 13
San Francisco 36, New Orleans 32
N.Y. Giants 37, Green Bay 20

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
New England 23, Baltimore 20
N.Y. Giants 20, San Francisco 17 (OT)

SUPER BOWL XLVI
N.Y. Giants 21, New England 17

TEAM EFFICIENCY

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE				
	OFF PLAYS	RUSH AVG	PASS AVG	OFF AVG	DEF PLAYS	RUSH AVG	PASS AVG	DEF AVG
1. N.O.	1117	4.94	7.79	6.69	1. Pitt.	964	4.00	4.87	4.51
2. G.B.	988	3.94	8.30	6.56	2. Balt.	1002	3.54	5.39	4.61
3. N.E.	1082	4.03	7.89	6.33	3. Hou.	960	4.06	5.21	4.76
4. Car.	999	5.41	6.91	6.24	4. Cin.	1009	3.94	5.80	5.01
5. Phil.	1036	5.06	7.01	6.16	5. N.Y.J.	993	3.94	5.93	5.03
6. S.D.	1048	4.28	7.23	6.00	6. S.F.	974	3.50	5.95	5.06
7. N.Y.G.	1028	3.47	7.67	5.99	7. Sea.	1049	3.80	6.11	5.07
8. Det.	1058	4.28	6.86	5.99	8. Jax.	979	3.83	6.14	5.12
9. Oak.	1015	4.53	7.22	5.98	9. Clev.	1035	4.42	5.91	5.14
10. Dall.	1017	4.43	6.90	5.91	10. Ariz.	1095	4.18	5.96	5.19
11. Pitt.	1015	4.38	6.98	5.87	11. Ten.	1080	4.45	5.86	5.26
12. Hou.	1046	4.48	7.01	5.69	12. Phil.	982	4.35	5.98	5.29
13. Buff.	992	4.91	6.16	5.67	13. Mia.	1043	3.71	6.33	5.29
14. Atl.	1073	4.05	6.76	5.62	14. Chi.	1048	4.02	6.12	5.35
15. Ten.	984	3.82	6.45	5.45	15. K.C.	991	4.16	6.67	5.38
16. T.B.	966	4.21	5.89	5.29	16. Den.	1063	4.14	6.44	5.39
17. Minn.	1007	5.17	5.29	5.24	17. Wash.	988	4.30	6.46	5.50
18. Balt.	1036	4.35	5.93	5.23	18. Atl.	965	4.17	6.38	5.53
19. Ariz.	993	4.18	5.91	5.23	19. St.L.	1033	4.77	6.31	5.55
20. Wash.	1032	4.04	5.97	5.22	20. Det.	1055	5.00	5.94	5.57
21. Chi.	978	4.42	5.77	5.14	21. Minn.	1027	3.90	6.84	5.58
22. Mia.	990	4.24	5.93	5.13	22. Ind.	1062	4.26	6.96	5.59
23. Cin.	1015	3.91	5.96	5.04	23. N.Y.G.	1072	4.46	6.41	5.62
24. S.F.	993	4.10	5.92	5.01	24. Dall.	972	4.12	6.65	5.65
25. Den.	1017	4.82	5.17	4.98	25. S.D.	958	4.36	7.04	5.79
26. K.C.	1021	3.89	5.77	4.87	26. Oak.	1070	5.07	6.29	5.80
27. Sea.	1003	3.95	5.55	4.85	27. N.O.	1010	4.95	6.31	5.84
28. N.Y.J.	1030	3.82	5.62	4.84	28. Buff.	1003	4.76	6.93	5.92
29. Ind.	951	4.17	5.26	4.83	29. N.E.	1064	4.63	7.14	6.18
30. Clev.	1024	3.69	5.07	4.51	30. Car.	972	4.64	7.58	6.22
31. St.L.	1013	4.08	4.75	4.48	31. G.B.	1049	4.67	7.20	6.28
32. Jax.	1002	4.03	4.25	4.14	32. T.B.	1002	5.01	7.57	6.30

INSIDE THE RED ZONE

	OFFENSE					DEFENSE				
	POSS	TD	FG	SCOR%	TD%	POSS	TD	FG	SCOR%	TD%
1. N.Y.J.	55	36	11	.855	.655	1. Balt.	42	16	15	.738	.381
2. N.E.	72	47	18	.903	.653	2. Ariz.	58	23	24	.810	.397
3. G.B.	66	43	19	.939	.652	3. Clev.	49	20	20	.816	.408
4. Det.	58	37	17	.931	.638	4. S.F.	34	14	14	.824	.412
5. Ten.	37	22	11	.892	.595	5. Wash.	57	25	21	.807	.439
6. N.O.	75	44	20	.853	.587	6. Mia.	52	23	19	.808	.442
7. Car.	57	33	14	.825	.579	7. Chi.	56	25	20	.804	.446
8. N.Y.G.	56	32	15	.839	.571	8. Atl.	47	22	15	.787	.468
9. Minn.	53	30	14	.830	.566	9. Hou.	44	21	15	.818	.477
10. S.D.	54	29	15	.815	.537	10. Ten.	48	23	18	.854	.479
11. Buff.	53	28	15	.811	.528	11. Sea.	39	19	15	.872	.487
12. Chi.	38	20	14	.895	.526	12. Det.	53	26	19	.849	.491
13. Atl.	59	31	21	.881	.525	13. St.L.	52	26	21	.904	.500
14. Phil.	66	34	20	.818	.515	14. Minn.	56	29	21	.893	.518
15. Oak.	47	24	17	.872	.511	15. Den.	52	27	21	.923	.519
16. Ariz.	45	23	13	.800	.511	16. N.Y.J.	44	23	16	.886	.523
17. Balt.	49	25	19	.898	.510	17. Pitt.	31	17	10	.871	.548
18. Pitt.	53	27	16	.811	.509	18. K.C.	51	28	13	.804	.549
19. T.B.	38	19	12	.816	.500	19. Dall.	49	27	16	.878	.551
20. Dall.	51	25	19	.863	.490	20. G.B.	56	31	17	.857	.554
21. Jax.	35	17	11	.800	.486	21. N.Y.G.	61	34	15	.803	.557
22. Sea.	46	22	15	.804	.478	22. N.E.	61	34	16	.820	.557
23. Mia.	53	25	20	.849	.472	23. Jax.	43	24	13	.860	.558
24. Den.	36	17	12	.806	.472	24. T.B.	70	40	19	.843	.571
25. Hou.	60	28	24	.867	.467	25. Cin.	41	24	13	.902	.585
26. Cin.	51	23	20	.843	.451	26. Oak.	51	30	12	.824	.588
27. Ind.	38	16	13	.763	.421	27. Car.	56	33	16	.875	.589
28. Clev.	31	13	11	.774	.419	28. N.O.	39	23	12	.897	.590
29. Wash.	51	21	18	.765	.412	29. S.D.	49	29	15	.898	.592
30. S.F.	54	22	28	.926	.407	30. Phil.	47	28	9	.787	.596
31. St.L.	31	12	12	.774	.387	31. Ind.	57	35	15	.877	.614
32. K.C.	36	12	15	.750	.333	32. Buff.	59	38	14	.881	.644

TURNOVER TABLE

	TURNOVERS			TAKEAWAYS			DIF
	FUM	INT	TOT	FUM	INT	TOT	
San Francisco	5	5	10	15	23	38	+28
Green Bay	6	8	14	7	31	38	+24
New England	5	12	17	11	23	34	+17
Detroit	7	16	23	13	21	34	+11
Atlanta	8	13	21	10	19	29	+8
Seattle	9	14	23	9	22	31	+8
Houston	11	9	20	10	17	27	+7
N.Y. Giants	8	16	24	11	20	31	+7
Jacksonville	8	15	23	11	17	28	+5
Dallas	9	12	21	10	15	25	+4
Baltimore	12	12	24	11	15	26	+2
Chicago	9	20	29	11	20	31	+2
Buffalo	5	25	30	11	20	31	+1
Carolina	6	17	23	10	14	24	+1
Cleveland	6	13	19	11	9	20	+1
Tennessee	8	14	22	12	11	23	+1
Cincinnati	8	14	22	12	10	22	+0
Kansas City	10	18	28	6	20	26	-2
Minnesota	9	17	26	15	8	23	-3
New Orleans	5	14	19	7	9	16	-3
N.Y. Jets	16	18	34	12	19	31	-3
Oakland	7	23	30	8	18	26	-4
St. Louis	13	10	23	6	12	18	-5
Miami	12	13	25	3	16	19	-6
San Diego	8	20	28	4	17	21	-7
Denver	17	13	30	9	9	18	-12
Indianapolis	15	14	29	9	8	17	-12
Arizona	9	23	32	9	10	19	-13
Pittsburgh	13	15	28	4	11	15	-13
Philadelphia	13	25	38	9	15	24	-14
Washington	11	24	35	8	13	21	-14
Tampa Bay	16	24	40	10	14	24	-16

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

Make sure to become followers of PFW on Twitter so that you can be alerted to the latest breaking news, features, columns, fantasy football analysis and handicapping tips from ProFootballWeekly.com.

http://twitter.com/ProFootballWkly

FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK!

Become a fan of PFW on Facebook and get the most interesting columns, features, breaking news and handicapping tips sent to your home page. Also, be sure to take advantage of our fantasy football chats on Sunday mornings, where we answer your last-minute lineup questions.

http://www.facebook.com/ProFootballWeekly

CATCH OUR STATS COVERAGE ALL YEAR ROUND

ProFootballWEEKLY.com

www.ProFootballWeekly.com

AFC TEAM STATISTICS

OFFENSE	BAL	BUF	CIN	CLE	DEN	HOU	IND	JAX	KC	MIA	NE	NYJ	OAK	PIT	SD	TEN
W-L-T	12-4-0	6-10-0	9-7-0	4-12-0	8-8-0	10-6-0	2-14-0	5-11-0	7-9-0	6-10-0	13-3-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	12-4-0	8-8-0	9-7-0
First downs	312	313	285	278	286	321	258	251	277	287	399	301	328	341	359	281
Rushing	98	100	93	77	129	131	69	103	89	89	107	92	110	96	97	71
Passing	181	180	160	173	130	176	170	122	163	166	262	173	186	221	234	185
Penalty	33	33	32	28	27	14	19	26	25	32	30	36	32	24	28	25
Total yards	5419	5624	5118	4621	5066	5954	4589	4149	4973	5078	6848	4989	6072	5957	6290	5361
Yards per game	338.7	351.5	319.9	288.8	316.6	372.1	286.8	259.3	310.8	317.4	428.0	311.8	379.5	372.3	393.1	335.1
Rushing yds.	1996	1921	1778	1531	2632	2448	1594	1970	1893	1987	1764	1692	2110	1903	1864	1438
Yds per game	124.8	120.1	111.1	95.7	164.5	153.0	99.6	123.1	118.3	124.2	110.3	105.8	131.9	118.9	116.5	89.9
Passing (net)	3423	3703	3340	3090	2434	3506	2995	2179	3080	3091	5084	3297	3962	4054	4426	3923
Yds. per game	213.9	231.4	208.8	193.1	152.1	219.1	187.2	136.2	192.5	193.2	317.8	206.1	247.6	253.4	276.6	245.2
Rush. plays	459	391	455	415	546	546	382	489	487	469	438	443	466	434	436	376
Yds. per rush	4.3	4.9	3.9	3.7	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.3	3.8
Pass attempts	544	578	535	570	429	467	534	469	500	469	612	547	524	539	582	584
Completed	314	356	308	320	217	288	302	240	299	280	402	310	315	341	366	353
Pct. comp.	57.7	61.6	57.6	56.1	50.6	61.7	56.6	51.2	59.8	59.7	65.7	56.7	60.1	63.3	62.9	60.4
Sacked	33	23	25	39	42	33	35	44	34	52	32	40	25	42	30	24
Yards lost	206	154	167	210	274	190	228	331	208	334	173	245	157	279	198	190
Had intercepted	12	25	14	13	13	9	14	15	18	13	12	18	23	15	20	14
Yds. opp. int. ret.	159	327	159	241	276	132	119	177	247	224	186	382	234	201	522	167
Opp. int. TDs	1	3	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	3	0	4	3
Punts	73	73	91	89	101	74	89	99	89	78	57	92	78	60	47	86
Gross avg.	46.5	47.6	44.2	40.1	47.4	44.0	46.0	41.9	45.9	48.8	46.5	42.7	50.8	44.7	47.5	43.6
Touchbacks	9	10	9	2	7	8	3	10	5	7	3	6	9	6	2	7
Net avg.	38.6	38.1	39.2	36.3	40.2	37.7	39.2	36.5	40.1	41.1	41.5	38.8	40.9	38.6	39.7	39.4
Blocked	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Punt returns	36	26	53	38	47	51	32	34	40	46	38	44	32	33	31	47
Yards per ret.	9.6	12.7	11.5	11.1	12.7	10.4	3.4	4.4	11.9	11.4	10.2	9.7	8.3	10.5	8.5	10.4
Ret. for TD	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
KO returns	42	37	45	48	39	29	31	47	46	39	46	62	43	35	43	32
Yards per ret.	24.9	23.1	22.8	23.6	24.5	25.2	18.6	22.4	21.3	24.2	21.4	26.3	23.5	25.1	25.6	26.0
Ret. for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Penalties	92	86	99	95	101	99	76	77	110	85	87	102	163	101	91	104
Yds. penalized	742	743	874	847	842	852	549	680	916	779	815	849	1358	854	753	960
Fumbles	24	16	17	22	30	20	24	27	17	28	13	25	16	16	20	17
Fumbles lost	12	5	8	6	17	11	15	8	10	12	5	16	7	13	8	8
Opp. fumbles	27	21	26	20	19	18	15	21	18	17	21	25	13	13	11	20
Opp. fum. lost	11	11	12	11	9	10	9	11	6	3	11	12	8	4	4	12
3rd-down att.	229	191	219	238	214	224	214	241	225	207	194	213	199	196	211	218
Converted	97	62	80	92	66	93	74	81	81	69	89	74	71	90	103	80
3rd-down pct.	42.4	32.5	36.5	38.7	30.8	41.5	34.6	33.6	36.0	33.3	45.9	34.7	35.7	45.9	48.8	36.7
4th-down att.	7	22	10	18	13	11	11	17	17	16	11	11	13	8	11	14
Converted	4	9	4	10	3	3	4	6	7	6	7	4	7	3	4	10
4th-down pct.	57.1	40.9	40.0	55.6	23.1	27.3	36.4	35.3	41.2	37.5	63.6	36.4	53.8	37.5	36.4	71.4
Time of poss.	30:35	30:11	30:19	29:07	28:51	32:41	26:13	30:02	29:10	30:23	28:47	30:49	29:51	32:33	31:39	27:52
Touchdowns	41	43	35	21	36	41	25	25	20	33	61	45	38	36	46	34
Rushing	15	12	10	4	11	18	8	9	5	11	18	14	16	13	16	8
Passing	21	24	21	16	20	20	14	12	13	20	39	26	20	21	27	22
Returns	5	7	4	1	5	3	3	4	2	2	4	5	2	2	3	4
1-pt. PAT/att.	40/40	41/41	33/34	20/20	30/30	39/40	24/24	24/24	20/20	32/32	59/59	44/44	36/36	36/36	44/45	34/34
2-pt. PAT/att.	1/1	1/2	0/1	0/1	3/6	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/0	0/1	2/2	0/1	0/2	0/0	1/1	0/0
FG/FGA	30/39	23/31	33/38	24/29	19/25	32/38	23/27	23/25	24/30	33/39	28/33	19/25	31/35	23/31	28/35	29/32
Pts. scored	378	372	344	218	309	381	243	243	212	329	513	377	359	325	406	325
DEFENSE	**BAL**	**BUF**	**CIN**	**CLE**	**DEN**	**HOU**	**IND**	**JAX**	**KC**	**MIA**	**NE**	**NYJ**	**OAK**	**PIT**	**SD**	**TEN**
Opp. points	266	434	323	307	390	278	430	329	338	313	342	363	433	227	377	317
Opp. 1st dns.	269	340	284	301	315	270	343	268	291	310	370	272	369	264	311	324
Rushing	79	120	94	124	101	73	136	73	96	88	101	83	105	82	102	111
Passing	166	196	170	149	182	166	193	175	169	198	245	167	206	156	186	187
Penalty	24	24	20	28	32	31	14	20	26	24	24	22	58	26	23	26
Opp. tot. yds.	4622	5938	5060	5318	5725	4571	5935	5008	5333	5522	6577	4993	6201	4348	5546	5682
Yds. per game	288.9	371.1	316.3	332.4	357.8	285.7	370.9	313.0	333.3	345.1	411.1	312.1	387.6	271.8	346.6	355.1
Rushing yds.	1482	2224	1675	2359	2021	1536	2303	1667	2112	1530	1874	1777	2178	1597	1955	2053
Yds. per game	92.6	139.0	104.7	147.4	126.3	96.0	143.9	104.2	132.0	95.6	117.1	111.1	136.1	99.8	122.2	128.3
Pass yds. (net)	3140	3714	3385	2959	3704	3035	3632	3341	3221	3992	4703	3216	4023	2751	3591	3629
Yds. per game	196.3	232.1	211.6	184.9	231.5	189.7	227.0	208.8	201.3	249.5	293.9	201.0	251.4	171.9	224.4	226.8
Opp. rushes	419	467	425	534	488	378	540	435	508	412	405	451	430	399	448	461
Yds. per rush	3.5	4.8	3.9	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.2	3.7	4.6	3.9	5.1	4.0	4.4	4.5
Opp. passes	535	507	539	469	534	538	493	513	454	590	619	507	601	530	478	591
Completed	288	321	319	265	333	279	351	326	257	350	386	275	324	289	299	369
Pct. comp.	53.8	63.3	59.2	56.5	62.4	51.9	71.2	63.5	56.6	59.3	62.4	54.2	53.9	54.5	62.6	62.4
Sacked	48	29	45	32	41	44	29	31	29	41	40	35	39	35	32	28
Yards lost	290	210	277	199	283	287	192	213	186	241	274	198	239	230	187	180
Int'cepted by	15	20	10	9	9	17	8	17	20	16	23	19	18	11	17	11
Yds. returned	175	341	137	93	152	196	118	160	283	256	296	378	252	99	260	179
Ret. for TD	1	4	1	0	3	1	2	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	1
Opp. punts	86	68	98	76	92	83	74	89	83	95	67	92	68	87	60	83
Gross avg.	43.6	44.7	46.6	46.1	47.3	46.9	43.6	43.3	47.6	45.4	45.5	45.0	46.5	43.6	47.0	43.7
Touchbacks	5	4	7	10	12	4	7	10	9	6	2	10	6	3	5	6
Net average	38.4	38.7	38.9	37.9	38.2	39.6	40.3	39.4	39.7	38.6	39.1	38.2	40.8	38.9	41.0	36.4
Blocked	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2
Opp. punt ret.	33	43	38	26	51	32	48	48	36	47	26	32	44	29	25	36
Yards per ret.	11.9	11.5	7.2	11.7	11.5	9.6	11.5	6.9	11.4	9.9	8.5	7.5	13.5	8.4	13.2	6.1
Opp. KO ret.	36	56	44	46	20	46	19	26	25	41	60	61	47	43	57	30
Yards per ret.	29.2	20.4	20.8	22.9	24.6	22.4	30.7	24.3	24.2	22.9	21.6	21.2	25.7	23.7	25.5	22.7
Opp. penalties	103	85	101	90	99	88	84	105	108	112	115	110	120	96	92	99
Yds. penalized	1032	871	878	726	845	686	804	895	834	975	907	966	982	777	760	812
Opp. 3rd dns.	221	189	220	230	218	212	216	218	210	219	202	211	219	221	195	236
Converted	71	75	78	95	73	76	98	79	72	74	87	69	92	86	96	96
3rd-down pct.	32.1	39.7	35.5	41.3	33.5	35.8	45.4	36.2	34.3	33.8	43.1	32.7	42.0	38.9	49.2	40.7
Opp. 4th dns.	21	13	11	14	9	13	6	9	16	14	19	10	14	13	9	20
Converted	10	9	4	6	3	6	3	4	7	7	8	1	4	8	1	8
4th-down pct.	47.6	69.2	36.4	42.9	33.3	46.2	50.0	44.4	43.8	50.0	42.1	10.0	28.6	61.5	11.1	40.0
Opp. TDs	26	53	37	31	42	27	49	37	38	33	40	39	53	23	43	34
Rushing	10	19	14	12	11	8	19	14	14	8	13	17	15	7	8	10
Passing	11	30	21	16	24	18	25	21	23	24	26	15	31	15	29	21
Returns	5	4	2	3	7	1	5	2	1	1	1	7	7	1	6	3
1-pt. PAT/att.	26/26	51/52	35/35	31/31	40/40	22/22	49/49	35/36	37/37	31/31	38/38	38/38	52/53	21/21	40/40	32/32
2-pt. PAT/att.	0/0	1/1	0/2	0/0	0/2	2/5	0/0	1/1	1/1	1/2	0/2	1/1	0/0	1/2	2/3	0/2
Opp. FG/FGA	28/31	21/25	22/27	30/34	32/39	30/36	29/34	22/29	23/28	26/33	20/23	29/30	21/29	22/27	25/28	27/28

NFC TEAM STATISTICS

OFFENSE	AZ	ATL	CAR	CHI	DAL	DET	GB	MIN	NO	NYG	PHI	SF	SEA	STL	TB	WAS	NFL AVG
W-L-T	8-8-0	10-6-0	6-10-0	8-8-0	8-8-0	10-6-0	15-1-0	3-13-0	13-3-0	9-7-0	8-8-0	13-3-0	7-9-0	2-14-0	4-12-0	5-11-0	
First downs	286	349	345	271	327	349	353	297	416	331	356	282	265	267	277	312	311.3
Rushing	83	100	139	97	91	71	89	118	116	84	134	101	89	79	74	79	96.7
Passing	175	215	175	153	219	244	230	159	280	216	197	150	153	159	180	204	187.2
Penalty	28	34	31	21	17	34	34	20	20	31	25	31	23	29	23	29	27.3
Total yards	5192	6026	6237	5026	6008	6337	6482	5275	7474	6161	6386	4974	4861	4537	5108	5387	5549.3
Yds. per gm.	324.5	376.6	389.8	314.1	375.5	396.1	405.1	329.7	467.1	385.1	399.1	310.9	303.8	283.6	319.3	336.7	346.8
Rushing yds.	1625	1834	2408	2015	1807	1523	1558	2318	2127	1427	2276	2044	1756	1667	1458	1614	1874.3
Yds. per game	101.6	114.6	150.5	125.9	112.9	95.2	97.4	144.9	132.9	89.2	142.3	127.8	109.8	104.2	91.1	100.9	117.1
Passing (net)	3567	4192	3829	3011	4201	4814	4924	2957	5347	4734	4110	2930	3105	2870	3650	3773	3675.0
Yds. per game	222.9	262.0	239.3	188.2	262.6	300.9	307.8	184.8	334.2	295.9	256.9	183.1	194.1	179.4	228.1	235.8	229.7
Rush. plays	389	453	445	456	408	356	395	448	431	411	450	498	444	409	346	400	436.6
Yds. per rush	4.2	4.0	5.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	3.9	5.2	4.9	3.5	5.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.3
Pass attempts	550	594	519	473	570	666	552	510	662	589	554	451	509	549	588	591	544.1
Completed	307	365	312	268	376	423	376	286	472	359	330	277	299	292	365	346	327.0
Pct. comp.	55.8	61.4	60.1	56.7	66.0	63.5	68.1	56.1	71.3	61.0	59.6	61.4	58.7	53.2	62.1	58.5	60.1
Sacked	54	26	35	49	39	36	41	49	24	28	32	44	50	55	32	41	37.1
Yards lost	387	173	260	335	252	257	237	298	158	199	166	263	339	388	188	285	241.5
Had int.	23	13	17	20	12	16	8	17	14	16	25	5	14	10	24	24	15.8
Yds. opp. ret.	296	178	229	380	158	140	63	213	162	291	368	51	187	40	266	353	222.8
Opp. int. TDs	1	2	1	3	2	3	0	3	1	3	2	0	1	0	2	0	1.5
Punts	92	71	66	89	71	82	55	77	47	82	67	79	95	106	67	66	77.8
Gross avg.	45.0	42.1	42.7	43.9	42.9	43.6	45.6	45.7	47.3	45.7	42.2	50.3	46.6	43.9	45.1	43.1	45.0
Touchbacks	5	4	5	4	8	7	4	3	4	6	9	9	8	9	3	1	6.0
Net avg.	37.3	38.9	34.1	40.4	36.7	36.0	38.6	38.0	43.1	39.2	36.9	44.0	39.3	37.0	40.3	39.0	38.8
Blocked	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0.3
Punt returns	46	33	32	30	41	38	27	33	29	28	30	44	42	27	29	37	36.7
Yards per ret.	15.1	9.5	5.5	15.7	7.1	7.9	10.9	8.4	10.1	6.1	7.1	12.4	11.0	11.0	8.0	8.9	9.9
Ret. for TD	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.6
KO returns	52	24	39	57	33	37	41	53	42	52	39	39	46	55	46	56	43.0
Yards per ret.	24.0	23.5	23.7	21.7	23.3	24.0	24.5	26.9	26.5	23.3	20.9	27.2	24.8	23.3	22.3	22.1	23.8
Ret. for TD	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
Penalties	106	93	113	104	114	128	76	109	99	94	107	113	138	112	123	91	102.8
Yds. penalized	1004	769	1013	800	816	1075	591	908	851	795	853	1014	1047	899	1007	897	867.3
Fumbles	24	12	13	26	24	20	15	20	6	18	23	14	22	27	30	25	20.3
Fumbles lost	9	8	6	9	9	7	6	9	5	8	13	5	9	13	16	11	9.5
Opp. fumbles	15	19	20	23	20	25	19	26	20	21	18	31	18	24	21	26	20.3
Opp. fum. lost	9	10	10	11	10	13	7	15	7	11	9	15	9	6	10	8	9.5
3rd-down att.	205	224	185	203	198	212	189	216	208	206	205	221	228	228	206	219	212.1
Converted	66	99	75	66	78	76	91	83	118	77	85	65	77	64	76	81	80.6
3rd-down pct.	32.2	44.2	40.5	32.5	39.4	35.8	48.1	38.4	56.7	37.4	41.5	29.4	33.8	28.1	36.9	37.0	38.0
4th-down att.	15	13	10	8	10	14	8	18	10	13	15	14	15	23	21	13	13.4
Converted	9	4	6	2	5	8	4	7	3	4	7	9	7	8	8	4	5.8
4th-down pct.	60.0	30.8	60.0	25.0	50.0	57.1	50.0	38.9	30.0	30.8	46.7	64.3	46.7	34.8	38.1	30.8	43.3
Time of poss.	28:11	32:05	30:16	30:13	30:55	30:06	30:29	28:39	31:46	29:30	31:23	32:02	28:07	28:07	29:04	30:06	30:00
Touchdowns	37	46	48	38	39	57	70	39	66	47	46	35	35	18	30	28	39.3
Rushing	12	14	26	10	5	9	12	18	16	17	20	14	15	7	9	8	12.5
Passing	21	29	21	18	33	41	51	20	46	29	22	18	15	9	17	19	23.3
Returns	4	3	1	10	1	7	7	1	4	1	4	3	5	2	4	1	3.6
1-pt. PAT/att.	33/33	45/45	44/45	37/37	39/39	54/54	68/69	38/39	63/63	43/43	46/46	34/34	34/34	18/18	23/23	25/26	37.5/37.7
2-pt. PAT/att.	0/2	0/1	2/3	1/1	0/0	2/3	0/1	0/0	2/3	4/4	0/0	1/1	0/1	0/0	2/7	1/2	0.7/1.6
FG/FGA	19/24	27/29	22/28	28/32	32/37	24/29	24/28	22/28	28/34	19/24	24/27	44/52	25/30	21/28	26/28	31/41	26.2/31.6
Pts. scored	312	402	406	353	369	474	560	340	547	394	396	380	321	193	287	288	354.9
OFFENSE	**AZ**	**ATL**	**CAR**	**CHI**	**DAL**	**DET**	**GB**	**MIN**	**NO**	**NYG**	**PHI**	**SF**	**SEA**	**STL**	**TB**	**WAS**	**NFL AVG**
Opp. points	348	350	429	341	347	387	359	449	339	400	328	229	315	407	494	367	354.9
Opp. 1st dns.	333	292	329	291	305	325	358	332	326	338	289	267	310	313	356	295	311.3
Rushing	118	87	110	75	78	91	96	92	92	103	84	53	96	122	135	95	96.7
Passing	174	186	191	199	199	195	246	213	196	210	173	190	174	166	188	180	187.2
Penalty	41	19	28	17	28	39	16	27	38	25	32	24	40	25	33	20	27.3
Opp. tot. yds.	5682	5338	6042	5607	5491	5881	6585	5731	5895	6022	5198	4931	5315	5734	6311	5437	5549.3
Yds. per game	355.1	333.6	377.6	350.4	343.2	367.6	411.6	358.2	368.4	376.4	324.9	308.2	332.2	358.4	394.4	339.8	346.8
Rushing yds.	1986	1552	2093	1542	1585	2050	1789	1712	1738	1940	1801	1236	1797	2433	2497	1884	1874.3
Yds. per game	124.1	97.0	130.8	96.4	99.1	128.1	111.8	107.0	108.6	121.3	112.6	77.3	112.3	152.1	156.1	117.8	117.1
Passing (net)	3696	3786	3949	4065	3906	3831	4796	4019	4157	4082	3397	3695	3518	3301	3814	3553	3675.0
Yds. per game	231.0	236.6	246.8	254.1	244.1	239.4	299.8	251.2	259.8	255.1	212.3	230.9	219.9	206.3	238.4	222.1	229.7
Opp. rushes	475	372	451	384	385	410	383	439	351	435	414	353	473	510	498	438	436.6
Yds. per rush	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.0	4.1	5.0	4.7	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.8	4.8	5.0	4.3	4.3
Opp. passes	578	560	490	631	545	604	637	538	626	589	518	579	543	484	481	509	544.1
Completed	340	340	318	383	336	376	390	367	362	361	301	333	324	293	301	308	327.0
Pct. comp.	58.8	60.7	64.9	60.7	61.7	62.3	61.2	68.2	57.8	61.3	58.1	57.5	59.7	60.5	62.6	60.5	60.1
Sacked	42	33	31	33	42	41	29	50	33	48	50	42	33	39	23	41	37.1
Yards lost	304	231	170	208	243	271	192	342	256	335	316	283	232	261	148	251	241.5
Int'cepted by	10	19	14	20	15	21	31	8	9	20	15	23	22	12	14	13	15.8
Yds. returned	117	301	197	177	217	458	468	152	80	157	192	284	462	169	195	127	222.8
Ret. for TD	0	2	0	4	1	5	4	0	1	0	1	1	4	1	3	1	1.5
Opp. punts	92	75	52	85	72	78	58	67	71	75	85	87	81	81	58	70	77.8
Gross avg.	44.4	46.1	43.2	42.7	47.5	45.3	43.0	47.1	44.3	44.3	43.2	45.0	44.6	44.9	43.4	45.3	45.0
Touchbacks	3	5	5	2	6	5	2	6	6	5	6	7	5	8	5	10	6.0
Net average	36.2	40.6	37.9	36.7	41.8	40.1	37.2	41.1	38.5	40.7	39.3	37.1	37.7	39.2	37.7	37.8	38.8
Blocked	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0.3
Opp. punt ret.	50	31	35	41	30	36	24	43	19	41	31	39	47	45	36	32	36.7
Yards per ret.	12.2	4.8	13.3	5.4	9.3	13.4	12.7	12.4	6.2	9.9	5.7	8.1	11.5	12.3	7.4	7.8	9.9
Opp. KO ret.	52	60	30	35	52	49	59	57	36	46	51	46	48	36	25	36	43.0
Yards per ret.	25.0	24.8	27.0	24.4	21.4	25.6	23.4	24.6	25.8	22.9	23.1	23.1	26.0	25.1	22.8	20.8	23.8
Opp. penalties	122	101	98	98	85	119	122	97	109	110	97	98	96	111	95	123	102.8
Yds penalized	950	843	901	719	650	982	948	834	912	933	813	867	907	951	786	1006	867.3
Opp. 3rd dns.	226	211	194	229	204	205	195	208	202	220	211	216	221	216	185	206	212.1
Converted	71	93	83	80	81	67	83	92	67	84	75	76	77	83	73	77	80.6
3rd-down pct.	31.4	44.1	42.8	34.9	39.7	32.7	42.6	44.2	33.2	38.2	35.5	35.2	34.8	38.4	39.5	37.4	38.0
Opp. 4th dns.	8	11	12	17	11	19	16	9	22	18	17	17	11	8	13	10	13.4
Converted	4	6	4	7	4	8	4	5	6	10	7	7	7	5	9	4	5.8
4th-down pct.	50.0	54.5	33.3	41.2	36.4	42.1	25.0	55.6	27.3	55.6	41.2	41.2	63.6	62.5	69.2	40.0	43.3
Opp. TDs	34	40	50	36	38	42	41	50	37	46	40	23	33	45	61	38	39.3
Rushing	15	10	18	10	10	10	10	10	11	15	11	3	10	17	26	15	12.5
Passing	17	25	28	22	24	26	29	34	24	28	27	20	18	21	30	22	23.3
Returns	2	5	4	4	4	6	2	6	2	3	2	0	5	7	5	1	3.6
1-pt. PAT/att.	33/33	37/37	48/48	33/33	35/35	41/41	35/35	49/49	36/37	45/45	38/38	21/21	31/32	44/44	59/60	37/38	37.5/37.7
2-pt. PAT/att.	0/1	1/3	0/2	0/3	2/2	1/1	4/6	1/1	0/0	1/1	1/2	1/2	1/1	0/0	0/1	0/0	0.7/1.6
Opp. FG/FGA	35/48	23/28	27/31	30/36	26/33	30/34	22/27	32/35	27/32	25/31	16/24	22/27	28/37	31/37	23/29	34/41	26.2/31.6

AFC TEAM RANKINGS

OFFENSE	BAL	BUF	CIN	CLE	DEN	HOU	IND	JAX	KC	MIA	NE	NYJ	OAK	PIT	SD	TEN
Total Yards/Game	15	14	20	29	23	13	30	32	27	22	2	25	9	12	6	17
Rushing Yards/Game	10	13	19	28	1	2	26	12	15	11	20	22	7	14	16	31
Avg. Gain/Rush	12	5	27	31	6	8	18	23	28	15	24	30	7	11	14	29
Passing Yards/Game	19	15	20	24	31	18	27	32	25	23	2	21	11	10	6	12
Avg. Gain/Pass Play	19	15	17	30	29	8	28	32	24	18	2	25	6	9	5	14
Pct. Had Intercepted	9	30	13	10	19	4	14	20	25	17	5	22	31	18	24	11
Pct. QB Sacks Allowed	13	2	5	17t	27	20	14	24	16	32	9	21	7	23	8	3
First Downs/Game	15t	14	22	25	20t	13	31	32	26t	19	2	17	11	9	3	24
Avg. Gain/Off. Play	18	13	23	30	25	12	29	32	26	22	3	28	9	11	6	15
3rd Down Efficiency	7	28	18	12	30	8	23	25	19	26	5	22	21	4	2	17
4th Down Efficiency	6t	15	16	8	32	30	21t	24	14	19t	3	21t	9	19t	21t	1
Punt Return Avg.	19	4	7	9	3	15	32	31	6	8	16	18	24	13	22	14
Kickoff Return Avg.	9	23	24	17	11	7	32	25	30	13	29	4	18	8	6	5
Gross Punting Avg.	9	4	19	32	6	20	11	31	12	3	10	28	1	18	5	24
Net Punting Avg.	18	24	14	29	8	23	16	27	9	4	3	17	5	21	10	11
Points/Game	12	14	18	30	25	10	28t	28t	31	20	3	13	16	21t	5t	21t
One-Point Conversion Pct.	1t	1t	31	1t	1t	29	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	27t	1t
Field Goal Pct.	26	31t	8	17t	27t	15	11	3	20t	13t	12	27t	6	31t	20t	4

DEFENSE	BAL	BUF	CIN	CLE	DEN	HOU	IND	JAX	KC	MIA	NE	NYJ	OAK	PIT	SD	TEN
Opp. Yards/Game	3	26	7	10	20	2	25	6	11	15	31	5	29	1	16	18t
Opp. Rush Yds./Game	2	28	10	30	22	4	29	9	26	3	17	13	27	8	20	24
Avg. Gain/Rush	2	27	8	21	13	11	17	5	14	3	24	7	32	9	20	22
Opp. Pass Yds./Game	4	19	9	2	18	3	15	8	6	25	31	5	27	1	13	14
Avg. Gain/Pass Play	3	26	4	6	21	2	27	14	24	18	29	7	15	1	28	5
Pct. Intercepted By	19	5	27	25	29	14	30	12	2	21	7	6	15	24	8	26
QB Sack Pct.	3	27	4	15	10	5	26	24	21	13	20	14	19	18	17	31
Opp. 1st Downs/Game	4	27	7	13	19	5	28	3	9t	15t	32	6	31	1	17	20
Avg. Gain/Def. Play	2	28	4	9	16	3	22	8	15	13	29	5	26	1	25	11
3rd Down Efficiency	2	21	12	24	6	14	31	15	8	7	28	4	25	19	32	23
4th Down Efficiency	21	31t	8t	17	6t	20	22t	19	18	22t	15t	1	5	28	2	10t
Opp. Punt Return Avg.	24	21	7	23	20	15	19	6	18	16	13	9	32	12	29	4
Opp. Kickoff Ret. Avg.	31	1	3	12	20	7	32	18	17	10	6	4	27	16	25	8
Opp. Gross Punt Avg.	8	15	26	23	30	27	9	5	32	21	22	18	25	7	28	10
Opp. Net Punt Avg.	14	16	19	11	13	23	26	20	24	10	21	9	29	18	30	1
Opp. Points/Game	3	30	9	5	24	4	28	11	12	6	15	20	29	1	22	8
Opp. Field Goal Pct.	29	21	10t	26t	14	18t	23	5	15t	6t	24	32	2	10t	28	31

MISCELLANEOUS	BAL	BUF	CIN	CLE	DEN	HOU	IND	JAX	KC	MIA	NE	NYJ	OAK	PIT	SD	TEN
Point Differential	5	22	13	27	25	6	30	26	29	14	3	15	23	7	11	17
Turnover Edge	11t	13t	17	13t	26t	7t	26t	9	18	24	3	19t	22	28t	25	13t
Penalty Yards Edge	2	7	15	25	16	29t	3	4	22	5	10	8	32	20	14	28
Punt Ret. Differential	24	14	3	20	13	16	32	25	18	11	10	8	29	9	28	5
KO Return Differential	31	5	7	14	17	4	32	25	29	11	18	1	27	9	16	3
Time of Possession	10	16	13	23	25	1	32	19	22	12	26	9	20	2	6	31

NFC TEAM RANKINGS

OFFENSE	AZ	ATL	CAR	CHI	DAL	DET	GB	MIN	NO	NYG	PHI	SF	SEA	STL	TB	WAS
Total Yards/Game	19	10	7	24	11	5	3	18	1	8	4	26	28	31	21	16
Rushing Yards/Game	24	17	3	9	18	29	27	4	6	32	5	8	21	23	30	25
Avg. Gain/Rush	17	21	1	10	9	13	26	2	4	32	3	19	25	20	16	22
Passing Yards/Game	17	8	13	26	7	4	3	28	1	5	9	29	22	30	16	14
Avg. Gain/Pass Play	21	13	10	23	11	12	1	27	3	4	7	20	26	31	22	16
Pct. Had Intercepted	28	8	21	29	6	12	2	23	7	15	32	1	16	3	27	26
Pct. QB Sacks Allowed	28	4	15	31	17t	10	22	25	1	6	12	26	29	30	11	19
First Downs/Game	20t	6t	8	28	12	6t	5	18	1	10	4	23	30	29	26t	15t
Avg. Gain/Off. Play	19	14	4	21	10	8	2	17	1	7	5	24	27	31	16	20
3rd Down Efficiency	29	6	10	27	11	20	3	13	1	14	9	31	24	32	16	15
4th Down Efficiency	4t	26t	4t	31	10t	6t	10t	17	29	26t	12t	2	12t	25	18	26t
Punt Return Avg.	2	20	30	1	27	26	12	23	17	29	28	5	10	11	25	21
Kickoff Return Avg.	15	19	16	28	20t	14	12	2	3	22	31	1	10	20t	26	27
Gross Punting Avg.	17	30	27	22	26	23	15	13	7	14	29	2	8	21	16	25
Net Punting Avg.	25	20	32	6	30	31	19	22	2	13	28	1	12	26	7	15
Points/Game	24	7	5t	17	15	4	1	19	2	9	8	11	23	32	27	26
One-Point Conversion Pct.	1t	1t	27t	1t	1t	1t	26	30	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	1t	32
Field Goal Pct.	22t	1	24t	7	9	17t	10	24t	19	22t	5	13t	16	30	2	29
DEFENSE	**AZ**	**ATL**	**CAR**	**CHI**	**DAL**	**DET**	**GB**	**MIN**	**NO**	**NYG**	**PHI**	**SF**	**SEA**	**STL**	**TB**	**WAS**
Opp. Yards/Game	18t	12	28	17	14	23	32	21	24	27	8	4	9	22	30	13
Opp. Rush Yds./Game	21	6	25	5	7	23	14	11	12	19	16	1	15	31	32	18
Avg. Gain/Rush	16	15	25	10	12	30	26	6	29	23	19	1	4	28	31	18
Opp. Pass Yds./Game	17	20	24	28	23	22	32	26	30	29	10	16	11	7	21	12
Avg. Gain/Pass Play	10	19	32	13	23	8	30	25	16	20	11	9	12	17	31	22
Pct. Intercepted By	28	11	18	13	20	9	1	31	32	10	17	4	3	23	16	22
QB Sack Pct.	11	25	22	29	9	16	32	2	28	6	1	12	23	7	30	8
Opp. 1st Downs/Game	25	11	23	9t	14	21	30	24	22	26	8	2	15t	18	29	12
Avg. Gain/Def. Play	10	18	30	14	24	20	31	21	27	23	12	6	7	19	32	17
3rd Down Efficiency	1	29	27	10	22	3	26	30	5	17	13	11	9	18	20	16
4th Down Efficiency	22t	25	6t	12t	8t	15t	3	26t	4	26t	12t	12t	30	29	31t	10t
Opp. Punt Return Avg.	25	1	30	2	14	31	28	27	5	17	3	11	22	26	8	10
Opp. Kickoff Ret. Avg.	23	22	30	19	5	26	15	21	28	11	14	13	29	24	9	2
Opp. Gross Punt Avg.	13	24	4	1	31	19	2	29	12	11	3	17	14	16	6	20
Opp. Net Punt Avg.	2	27	12	3	32	25	6	31	15	28	22	5	4	17	7	8
Opp. Points/Game	17	18	27	14	16	23	19	31	13	25	10	2	7	26	32	21
Opp. Field Goal Pct.	3	15t	25	18t	6t	26t	10t	30	22	9	1	10t	4	20	8	17
MISCELLANEOUS	**AZ**	**ATL**	**CAR**	**CHI**	**DAL**	**DET**	**GB**	**MIN**	**NO**	**NYG**	**PHI**	**SF**	**SEA**	**STL**	**TB**	**WAS**
Point Differential	21	10	20	16	12	8	2	28	1	19	9	4	18	32	31	24
Turnover Edge	28t	5t	13t	11t	10	4	2	19t	19t	7t	30t	1	5t	23	32	30t
Penalty Yards Edge	18	11	24	21	29t	23	1	19	12	6	17	27	26	13	31	9
Punt Ret. Differential	7	2	31	1	23	30	22	27	6	26	12	4	19	21	17	15
KO Return Differential	20	22	30	28	8	23	12	6	13	15	26	2	21	24	19	10
Time of Possession	28	3	14	15	8	18	11	27	5	21	7	4	29t	29t	24	17

TOM BRADY

SPORTPICS

AARON RODGERS

SPORTPICS

AFC PASSING

	TEAM	ATT	COMP	COMP PCT	YDS	TD	TD PCT	LG	INT	INT PCT	AVG GAIN	QB RTG
Brady	N.E.	611	401	65.6	5,235	39	6.4	99	12	2.0	8.57	105.6
Schaub	Hou.	292	178	61.0	2,479	15	5.1	80	6	2.1	8.49	96.8
Roethlisberger	Pitt.	513	324	63.2	4,077	21	4.1	95	14	2.7	7.95	90.1
Rivers	S.D.	582	366	62.9	4,624	27	4.6	58	20	3.4	7.95	88.7
Mat. Moore	Mia.	347	210	60.5	2,497	16	4.6	65	9	2.6	7.20	87.1
Hasselbeck	Ten.	518	319	61.6	3,571	18	3.5	80	14	2.7	6.89	82.4
Flacco	Balt.	542	312	57.6	3,610	20	3.7	74	12	2.2	6.66	80.9
Palmer	Oak.	328	199	60.7	2,753	13	4.0	78	16	4.9	8.39	80.5
Dalton	Cin.	516	300	58.1	3,398	20	3.9	84	13	2.5	6.59	80.4
Fitzpatrick	Buff.	569	353	62.0	3,832	24	4.2	60	23	4.0	6.73	79.1
Sanchez	N.Y.J.	543	308	56.7	3,474	26	4.8	74	18	3.3	6.40	78.2
Orton	Den.-K.C.	252	150	59.5	1,758	9	3.6	52	9	3.6	6.98	77.8
Cassel	K.C.	269	160	59.5	1,713	10	3.7	52	9	3.3	6.37	76.6
McCoy	Clev.	463	265	57.2	2,733	14	3.0	56	11	2.4	5.90	74.6
Tebow	Den.	271	126	46.5	1,729	12	4.4	56	6	2.2	6.38	72.9
Painter	Ind.	243	132	54.3	1,541	6	2.5	87	9	3.7	6.34	66.6
Gabbert	Jax.	413	210	50.8	2,214	12	2.9	74	11	2.7	5.36	65.4
NON-QUALIFIERS												
Sepulveda	Pitt.	1	1	100.0	33	0	0.0	33	0	0.0	33.00	118.8
Rice	Balt.	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	0	0	0.0	1.00	118.8
Hoyer	N.E.	1	1	100.0	22	0	0.0	22	0	0.0	22.00	118.8
Sanders	Pitt.	1	1	100.0	15	0	0.0	15	0	0.0	15.00	118.8
Kerley	N.Y.J.	1	1	100.0	41	0	0.0	41	0	0.0	41.00	118.8
T. Taylor	Balt.	1	1	100.0	18	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	18.00	118.8
Lechler	Oak.	3	1	33.3	35	1	33.3	35	0	0.0	11.67	118.1
Leinart	Hou.	13	10	76.9	57	1	7.7	20	0	0.0	4.38	110.1
Locker	Ten.	66	34	51.5	542	4	6.1	54	0	0.0	8.21	99.4
Delhomme	Hou.	28	18	64.3	211	1	3.6	40	0	0.0	7.54	99.0
J. Campbell	Oak.	165	100	60.6	1,170	6	3.6	58	4	2.4	7.09	84.2
Orlovsky	Ind.	193	122	63.2	1,201	6	3.1	40	4	2.1	6.22	82.4
Yates	Hou.	134	82	61.2	949	3	2.2	50	3	2.2	7.08	80.7
Henne	Mia.	112	64	57.1	868	4	3.6	41	4	3.6	7.75	79.0
Losman	Mia.	10	6	60.0	60	0	0.0	25	0	0.0	6.00	77.1
Batch	Pitt.	24	15	62.5	208	0	0.0	46	1	4.2	8.67	72.9
Brunell	N.Y.J.	3	1	33.3	27	0	0.0	27	0	0.0	9.00	67.4
Collins	Ind.	98	48	49.0	481	2	2.0	36	1	1.0	4.91	65.9
S. Wallace	Clev.	107	55	51.4	567	2	1.9	76	2	1.9	5.30	65.4
Palko	K.C.	134	80	59.7	796	2	1.5	38	7	5.2	5.94	59.8
Gradkowski	Cin.	18	8	44.4	109	1	5.6	41	1	5.6	6.06	59.7
McCown	Jax.	56	30	53.6	296	0	0.0	26	4	7.1	5.29	39.0
Boller	Oak.	28	15	53.6	161	0	0.0	27	3	10.7	5.75	31.1
Thigpen	Buff.	8	3	37.5	25	0	0.0	13	1	12.5	3.13	6.8

NFC PASSING

	TEAM	ATT	COMP	COMP PCT	YDS	TD	TD PCT	LG	INT	INT PCT	AVG GAIN	QB RTG
Rodgers	G.B.	502	343	68.3	4,643	45	9.0	93	6	1.2	9.25	122.5
Brees	N.O.	657	468	71.2	5,476	46	7.0	79	14	2.1	8.33	110.6
Romo	Dall.	522	346	66.3	4,184	31	5.9	77	10	1.9	8.02	102.5
Stafford	Det.	663	421	63.5	5,038	41	6.2	73	16	2.4	7.60	97.2
Manning	N.Y.G.	589	359	61.0	4,933	29	4.9	99	16	2.7	8.38	92.9
Ryan	Atl.	566	347	61.3	4,177	29	5.1	80	12	2.1	7.38	92.2
Ale. Smith	S.F.	445	273	61.3	3,144	17	3.8	56	5	1.1	7.07	90.7
Cutler	Chi.	314	182	58.0	2,319	13	4.1	56	7	2.2	7.39	85.7
Vick	Phil.	423	253	59.8	3,303	18	4.3	73	14	3.3	7.81	84.9
Newton	Car.	517	310	60.0	4,051	21	4.1	91	17	3.3	7.84	84.5
Kolb	Ariz.	253	146	57.7	1,955	9	3.6	73	8	3.2	7.73	81.1
T. Jackson	Sea.	450	271	60.2	3,091	14	3.1	61	13	2.9	6.87	79.2
Freeman	T.B.	551	346	62.8	3,592	16	2.9	65	22	4.0	6.52	74.6
Grossman	Wash.	458	265	57.9	3,151	16	3.5	51	20	4.4	6.88	72.4
Bradford	St.L.	357	191	53.5	2,164	6	1.7	68	6	1.7	6.06	70.5
Ponder	Minn.	291	158	54.3	1,853	13	4.5	72	13	4.5	6.37	70.1
Skelton	Ariz.	275	151	54.9	1,913	11	4.0	60	14	5.1	6.96	68.9
NON-QUALIFIERS												
Akers	S.F.	1	1	100.0	14	1	100.0	14	0	0.0	14.00	158.3
Banks	Wash.	1	1	100.0	49	1	100.0	49	0	0.0	49.00	158.3
Flynn	G.B.	49	33	67.3	518	6	12.2	80	2	4.1	10.57	124.8
Rice	Sea.	1	1	100.0	55	0	0.0	55	0	0.0	55.00	118.8
Naanee	Car.	1	1	100.0	27	0	0.0	27	0	0.0	27.00	118.8
Edwards	Car.	1	1	100.0	11	0	0.0	11	0	0.0	11.00	112.5
Sh. Hill	Det.	3	2	66.7	33	0	0.0	28	0	0.0	11.00	103.5
Daniel	N.O.	5	4	80.0	29	0	0.0	14	0	0.0	5.80	90.8
McGee	Dall.	38	24	63.2	182	1	2.6	19	0	0.0	4.79	83.4
McNabb	Minn.	156	94	60.3	1,026	4	2.6	60	2	1.3	6.58	82.9
Kitna	Dall.	10	6	60.0	87	1	10.0	33	2	20.0	8.70	82.1
Kaepernick	S.F.	5	3	60.0	35	0	0.0	19	0	0.0	7.00	81.3
Webb	Minn.	63	34	54.0	376	3	4.8	36	2	3.2	5.97	74.6
Clemens	St.L.	91	48	52.7	546	2	2.2	36	1	1.1	6.00	73.8
Beck	Wash.	132	80	60.6	858	2	1.5	32	4	3.0	6.50	72.1
Redman	Atl.	28	18	64.3	188	0	0.0	22	1	3.6	6.71	68.8
McCown	Chi.	55	35	63.6	414	2	3.6	49	4	7.3	7.53	68.3
Feeley	St.L.	97	53	54.6	548	1	1.0	34	2	2.1	5.65	66.0
Whitehurst	Sea.	56	27	48.2	298	1	1.8	38	1	1.8	5.32	62.9
Young	Phil.	114	66	57.9	866	4	3.5	58	9	7.9	7.60	60.8
J. Johnson	T.B.	36	19	52.8	246	1	2.8	42	2	5.6	6.83	60.6
Bartel	Ariz.	22	10	45.5	86	1	4.5	23	1	4.5	3.91	52.5
Kafka	Phil.	16	11	68.8	107	0	0.0	43	2	12.5	6.69	47.7
Hanie	Chi.	102	51	50.0	613	3	2.9	81	9	8.8	6.01	41.8

Excludes players who attempted two passes or fewer, without a completion.

AFC RUSHING

	TEAM	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jones-Drew	Jax.	343	1,606	4.7	56	8
Rice	Balt.	291	1,364	4.7	70	12
Foster	Hou.	278	1,224	4.4	43	10
McGahee	Den.	249	1,199	4.8	60	4
Mathews	S.D.	222	1,091	4.9	39	6
Bush	Mia.	216	1,086	5.0	76	6
Benson	Cin.	273	1,067	3.9	42	6
Greene	N.Y.J.	253	1,054	4.2	31	6
C. Johnson	Ten.	262	1,047	4.0	48	4
Bush	Oak.	256	977	3.8	44	7
Tate	Hou.	175	942	5.4	56	4
F. Jackson	Buff.	170	934	5.5	80	6
Mendenhall	Pitt.	228	928	4.1	68	9
Green-Ellis	N.E.	181	667	3.7	18	11
Tebow	Den.	122	660	5.4	32	6
D. Brown	Ind.	134	645	4.8	80	5
McFadden	Oak.	113	614	5.4	70	4
Battle	K.C.	149	597	4.0	34	2
Hillis	Clev.	161	587	3.6	24	3
Thomas	Mia.	165	581	3.5	28	0
Spiller	Buff.	107	561	5.2	38	4
McCluster	K.C.	114	516	4.5	32	1
Tolbert	S.D.	121	490	4.0	40	8
Redman	Pitt.	110	479	4.4	27	3
Jones	K.C.	153	478	3.1	26	0
R. Williams	Balt.	108	444	4.1	28	2
Ridley	N.E.	87	441	5.1	33	1
Addai	Ind.	118	433	3.7	16	1
Ball	Den.	96	402	4.2	34	1
Scott	Cin.	112	380	3.4	25	3
Carter	Ind.	101	377	3.7	42	2
Woodhead	N.E.	77	351	4.6	12	1
Ogbonnaya	Hou.-Clev.	76	340	4.5	40	1
Tomlinson	N.Y.J.	75	280	3.7	20	1
Hardesty	Clev.	88	266	3.0	19	0
Fitzpatrick	Buff.	56	215	3.8	18	0
McCoy	Clev.	61	212	3.5	20	0
Ringer	Ten.	59	185	3.1	25	1
Moreno	Den.	37	179	4.8	24	0
Moore	Pitt.	22	157	7.1	21	0
Ward	Hou.	45	154	3.4	15	2
Choice	Dal-Was-Buf.	57	152	2.7	14	1
Dalton	Cin.	37	152	4.1	17	1
McKnight	N.Y.J.	43	134	3.1	11	0
Karim	Jax.	63	130	2.1	14	0
Dwyer	Pitt.	16	123	7.7	76	0
Reece	Oak.	17	112	6.6	26	0
Henne	Mia.	15	112	7.5	20	1
Brady	N.E.	43	109	2.5	13	3
Painter	Ind.	17	107	6.3	24	0
Sanchez	N.Y.J.	37	103	2.8	25	6
Brinkley	S.D.	30	101	3.4	12	1
Cassel	K.C.	25	99	4.0	11	0
Gabbert	Jax.	48	98	2.0	12	0
Hester	S.D.	28	90	3.2	16	0
Flacco	Balt.	39	88	2.3	33	1
B. Smith	Buff.	20	87	4.4	18	1
Leonard	Cin.	17	85	5.0	14	0
Slaton	Hou.-Mia.	24	84	3.5	28	1
Charles	K.C.	12	83	6.9	24	0
J. Johnson	Den.	14	77	5.5	25	0
T. Jones	Oak.	16	73	4.6	14	0
Roethlisberger	Pitt.	31	70	2.3	11	0
S. Wallace	Clev.	7	70	10.0	27	0
Murphy	Oak.	6	69	11.5	27	1
Mat. Moore	Mia.	32	65	2.0	16	2
Moore	Oak.	5	61	12.2	25	1
J. Campbell	Oak.	18	60	3.3	17	2
Faulk	N.E.	17	57	3.4	9	0
Wallace	Pitt.	5	57	11.4	21	0
Vereen	N.E.	15	57	3.8	19	1
Yates	Hou.	14	57	4.1	17	0
Locker	Ten.	8	56	7.0	17	1
Green	Cin.	5	53	10.6	22	0
Hasselbeck	Ten.	20	52	2.6	21	0
V. Jackson	S.D.	3	51	17.0	41	0
L. McClain	K.C.	15	51	3.4	12	1
Royal	Den.	7	48	6.9	11	0
Hernandez	N.E.	5	45	9.0	19	0
Cartwright	Oak.	4	45	11.3	35	0
Conner	N.Y.J.	13	44	3.4	13	1
Larsen	Den.	14	44	3.1	6	0
Harper	Ten.	17	44	2.6	12	1
D. Harris	Jax.	9	42	4.7	24	0
Clay	Pitt.	10	41	4.1	10	1
A. Brown	Pitt.	7	41	5.9	10	0
Hilliard	Mia.	16	41	2.6	4	1
T. Smith	Balt.	4	39	9.8	16	0
Owens	Jax.	10	39	3.9	9	0
Boller	Oak.	9	38	4.2	20	0
J. White	Buff.	12	38	3.2	13	0
Rivers	S.D.	26	36	1.4	15	1
Leach	Balt.	12	35	2.9	6	0
Ford	Oak.	4	31	7.8	30	0
Welker	N.E.	4	30	7.5	19	0
Palmer	Oak.	16	20	1.3	10	1
Arenas	K.C.	3	12	4.0	7	1
Schaub	Hou.	15	9	0.6	3	2
G. Jones	Jax.	2	7	3.5	6	1
Washington	Ten.	2	5	2.5	3	1
R. Gronkowski	N.E.	1	2	2.0	2	1

Excludes players who gained fewer than 30 yards and did not score a touchdown.

NFC RUSHING

	TEAM	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Turner	Atl.	301	1,340	4.5	81	11
McCoy	Phil.	273	1,309	4.8	60	17
Gore	S.F.	282	1,211	4.3	55	8
Lynch	Sea.	285	1,204	4.2	47	12
S. Jackson	St.L.	260	1,145	4.4	47	5
B. Wells	Ariz.	245	1,047	4.3	71	10
Forte	Chi.	203	997	4.9	46	3
Peterson	Minn.	208	970	4.7	54	12
Murray	Dall.	164	897	5.5	91	2
D. Williams	Car.	155	836	5.4	74	7
Blount	T.B.	184	781	4.2	54	5
Stewart	Car.	142	761	5.4	32	4
Newton	Car.	126	706	5.6	49	14
Bradshaw	N.Y.G.	171	659	3.9	37	9
Helu	Wash.	151	640	4.2	28	2
Sproles	N.O.	87	603	6.9	36	2
Vick	Phil.	76	589	7.8	53	1
Starks	G.B.	133	578	4.3	40	1
F. Jones	Dall.	127	575	4.5	40	1
Jacobs	N.Y.G.	152	571	3.8	28	7
P. Thomas	N.O.	110	562	5.1	33	5
Grant	G.B.	134	559	4.2	47	2
Gerhart	Minn.	109	531	4.9	67	1
Ingram	N.O.	122	474	3.9	35	5
Hunter	S.F.	112	473	4.2	44	2
Barber	Chi.	114	422	3.7	29	6
Best	Det.	84	390	4.6	88	2
Ivory	N.O.	79	374	4.7	35	1
C. Williams	St.L.	87	361	4.1	23	1
K. Smith	Det.	72	356	4.9	43	4
Harvin	Minn.	52	345	6.6	39	2
Bell	Chi.	79	337	4.3	26	0
Royster	Wash.	56	328	5.9	28	0
Hightower	Wash.	84	321	3.8	22	1
Morris	Det.	80	316	4.0	31	1
Rodgers	G.B.	60	257	4.3	25	3
L. Washington	Sea.	53	248	4.7	48	1
Freeman	T.B.	55	238	4.3	25	4
Ponder	Minn.	28	219	7.8	28	0
Graham	T.B.	37	206	5.6	34	0
Rodgers	Atl.	57	205	3.6	13	1
Torain	Wash.	59	200	3.4	39	1
K. Williams	Det.	58	195	3.4	18	2
Ale. Smith	S.F.	52	179	3.4	14	2
Stephens-Howling	Ariz.	43	167	3.9	39	0
Ware	N.Y.G.	46	163	3.5	17	0
Webb	Minn.	22	154	7.0	65	2
Snelling	Atl.	44	151	3.4	18	0
Forsett	Sea.	46	145	3.2	22	1
R. Brown	Phil.	42	136	3.2	15	1
Skelton	Ariz.	28	128	4.6	14	0
T. Jackson	Sea.	40	108	2.7	13	1
Lumpkin	T.B.	31	105	3.4	19	0
Smith	Ariz.	30	102	3.4	12	1
Lewis	Phil.	23	102	4.4	20	1
Hanie	Chi.	13	98	7.5	24	0
Morris	Dall.	28	98	3.5	15	0
Dixon	S.F.	29	87	3.0	9	2
Brees	N.O.	21	86	4.1	20	1
Burleson	Det.	11	85	7.7	20	0
Ryan	Atl.	37	84	2.3	12	2
Young	Phil.	18	79	4.4	13	0
Kuhn	G.B.	30	78	2.6	12	4
Stafford	Det.	22	78	3.5	22	0
Taylor	Ariz.	20	77	3.9	34	1
Tanner	Dall.	22	76	3.5	17	1
Saine	G.B.	18	69	3.8	10	0
McCown	Chi.	12	68	5.7	28	0
Ginn	S.F.	8	68	8.5	24	0
J. Johnson	T.B.	11	67	6.1	14	0
Kolb	Ariz.	17	65	3.8	17	0
Norwood	St.L.	24	61	2.5	10	0
McNabb	Minn.	14	59	4.2	23	1
S. Smith	Car.	6	56	9.3	23	0
Jones	Atl.	6	56	9.3	19	0
Cutler	Chi.	18	55	3.1	12	1
Madu	T.B.	15	55	3.7	15	0
L. Booker	Minn.	13	52	4.0	25	0
Allen	Chi.	15	48	3.2	13	0
Romo	Dall.	22	46	2.1	17	1
Beck	Wash.	10	43	4.3	12	2
J. Harrison	Det.	14	41	2.9	9	0
D. Jackson	Phil.	7	41	5.9	18	0
Clemens	St.L.	6	37	6.2	18	1
Young	Wash.	6	33	5.5	12	1
K. Williams	S.F.	2	32	16.0	25	0
Logan	Det.	9	32	3.6	16	0
Manning	N.Y.G.	35	15	0.4	12	1
Brockel	Car.	3	12	4.0	7	1
Grossman	Wash.	20	11	0.6	6	1
Collins	N.O.	4	4	1.0	2	2
Raji	G.B.	1	1	1.0	1	1
Flynn	G.B.	13	-6	-0.5	3	1

Excludes players who gained fewer than 30 yards and did not score a touchdown.

AFC RECEIVING

	TEAM	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Welker	N.E.	122	1,569	12.9	99	9
R. Gronkowski	N.E.	90	1,327	14.7	52	17
Marshall	Mia.	81	1,214	15.0	65	6
Bowe	K.C.	81	1,159	14.3	52	5
Hernandez	N.E.	79	910	11.5	46	7
St. Johnson	Buff.	76	1,004	13.2	55	7
Rice	Balt.	76	704	9.3	52	3
Wayne	Ind.	75	960	12.8	56	4
Washington	Ten.	74	1,023	13.8	57	7
Wallace	Pitt.	72	1,193	16.6	95	8
Garcon	Ind.	70	947	13.5	87	6
A. Brown	Pitt.	69	1,108	16.1	79	2
Green	Cin.	65	1,057	16.3	58	7
Keller	N.Y.J.	65	815	12.5	41	5
Heyward-Bey	Oak.	64	975	15.2	58	4
Gates	S.D.	64	778	12.2	38	7
Breaston	K.C.	61	785	12.9	43	2
Little	Clev.	61	709	11.6	76	2
D. Nelson	Buff.	61	658	10.8	35	5
V. Jackson	S.D.	60	1,106	18.4	58	9
Boldin	Balt.	57	887	15.6	56	3
C. Johnson	Ten.	57	418	7.3	34	0
Gresham	Cin.	56	596	10.6	31	6
Daniels	Hou.	54	677	12.5	34	3
Dickson	Balt.	54	528	9.8	25	5
Collie	Ind.	54	514	9.5	27	1
Tolbert	S.D.	54	433	8.0	27	2
Foster	Hou.	53	617	11.6	78	2
Branch	N.E.	51	702	13.8	63	5
Holmes	N.Y.J.	51	654	12.8	38	8
Miller	Pitt.	51	631	12.4	39	2
Bess	Mia.	51	537	10.5	41	3
T. Smith	Balt.	50	841	16.8	74	7
Simpson	Cin.	50	725	14.5	84	4
Mathews	S.D.	50	455	9.1	42	0
Cook	Ten.	49	759	15.5	80	3
L. Hawkins	Ten.	47	470	10.0	32	1
Ward	Pitt.	46	381	8.3	31	2
McCluster	K.C.	46	328	7.1	49	1
Burress	N.Y.J.	45	612	13.6	30	8
D. Williams	Ten.	45	592	13.2	54	5
Decker	Den.	44	612	13.9	56	8
M. Thomas	Jax.	44	415	9.4	47	1
Floyd	S.D.	43	856	19.9	52	5
Jones-Drew	Jax.	43	374	8.7	48	3
Bush	Mia.	43	296	6.9	34	1
Tomlinson	N.Y.J.	42	449	10.7	74	2
Cribbs	Clev.	41	518	12.6	45	4
Pitta	Balt.	40	405	10.1	39	3
Walter	Hou.	39	474	12.2	41	3
Lewis	Jax.	39	460	11.8	62	0
F. Jackson	Buff.	39	442	11.3	49	0
Spiller	Buff.	39	269	6.9	19	2
Chandler	Buff.	38	389	10.2	31	6
Bush	Oak.	37	418	11.3	55	1
Watson	Clev.	37	410	11.1	34	2
Caldwell	Cin.	37	317	8.6	49	3
B. Hartline	Mia.	35	549	15.7	41	1
Clark	Ind.	34	352	10.4	21	2
Moore	Clev.	34	324	9.5	33	4
Moore	Oak.	33	618	18.7	78	5
A. Johnson	Hou.	33	492	14.9	50	2
D. Thomas	Den.	32	551	17.2	47	4
Fasano	Mia.	32	451	14.1	35	5

Jones	Hou.	31	512	16.5	80	2
Massaquoi	Clev.	31	384	12.4	56	2
McMichael	S.D.	30	271	9.0	30	0
Greene	N.Y.J.	30	211	7.0	36	0
Kerley	N.Y.J.	29	314	10.8	38	1
Dillard	Jax.	29	292	10.1	25	1
Boss	Oak.	28	368	13.1	35	3
Dreessen	Hou.	28	353	12.6	56	6
Ringer	Ten.	28	187	6.7	18	0
Reece	Oak.	27	301	11.1	47	2
J. Hill	Jax.	25	367	14.7	74	3
Hagan	Buff.	24	252	10.5	29	1
Pope	K.C.	24	247	10.3	39	1
Schilens	Oak.	23	271	11.8	30	2
Norwood	Clev.	23	268	11.7	51	1
Hawkins	Cin.	23	263	11.4	26	0
Crayton	S.D.	23	248	10.8	26	1
B. Smith	Buff.	23	240	10.4	36	1
Jones	Buff.	23	231	10.0	48	1
Ogbonnaya	Clev.	23	165	7.2	19	0
Sanders	Pitt.	22	288	13.1	32	2
Leonard	Cin.	22	210	9.5	37	0
Hillis	Clev.	22	130	5.9	52	0
Baldwin	K.C.	21	254	12.1	39	1
V. Brown	S.D.	19	329	17.3	31	2
Ford	Oak.	19	279	14.7	41	1
Fells	Den.	19	256	13.5	32	3
Tamme	Ind.	19	177	9.3	29	1
Mason	N.Y.J.-Hou.	19	170	8.9	30	0
Royal	Den.	19	155	8.2	26	1
McFadden	Oak.	19	154	8.1	26	1
Choice	Dal-Was-Buf.	19	124	6.5	18	0
Willis	Den.	18	267	14.8	42	1
Casey	Hou.	18	260	14.4	62	1
Woodhead	N.E.	18	157	8.7	16	0
Mendenhall	Pitt.	18	154	8.6	35	0
Redman	Pitt.	18	78	4.3	12	0
Britt	Ten.	17	289	17.0	80	3
Roosevelt	Buff.	16	257	16.1	60	1
Cotchery	Pitt.	16	237	14.8	36	2
Clay	Mia.	16	233	14.6	46	3
Myers	Oak.	16	151	9.4	24	0
Ball	Den.	16	148	9.3	34	1
D. Brown	Ind.	16	86	5.4	17	0
Ochocinco	N.E.	15	276	18.4	53	1
Murphy	Oak.	15	241	16.1	47	0
Addai	Ind.	15	93	6.2	12	0
Benson	Cin.	15	82	5.5	11	0
Leach	Balt.	15	69	4.6	11	0
A. Smith	Clev.	14	131	9.4	20	1
Hardesty	Clev.	14	122	8.7	27	0
Karim	Jax.	14	120	8.6	20	0
L. McClain	K.C.	14	82	5.9	14	1
West	Jax.	13	163	12.5	23	2
McKnight	N.Y.J.	13	139	10.7	27	0
Tate	Hou.	13	98	7.5	14	0
R. Williams	Balt.	13	83	6.4	18	0
Scott	Cin.	13	38	2.9	14	0
Sims-Walker	St.L.-Jax.	12	150	12.5	33	0
Johnson	Pitt.	12	91	7.6	25	1
Thomas	Mia.	12	72	6.0	12	1
McGahee	Den.	12	51	4.3	12	1
Hester	S.D.	12	48	4.0	11	1
Houshmandzadeh	Oak.	11	146	13.3	40	1
D. Lee	Cin.	11	115	10.5	26	0
Moore	Pitt.	11	104	9.5	24	1
Moreno	Den.	11	101	9.2	28	1
Stevens	Ten.	9	166	18.4	58	1
Green-Ellis	N.E.	9	159	17.7	53	0
Colbert	K.C.	9	89	9.9	19	0
Larsen	Den.	9	76	8.4	16	0
Battle	K.C.	9	68	7.6	24	0
Hall	Ten.	9	46	5.1	10	0
Eldridge	Ind.	9	45	5.0	8	0
Copper	K.C.	8	114	14.3	43	0
P. Turner	N.Y.J.	8	96	12.0	25	1
Rosario	Den.	7	117	16.7	32	0
R. Martin	Buff.	7	82	11.7	28	0
J. Johnson	Den.	7	62	8.9	17	0
O'Connell	K.C.	7	52	7.4	15	0
Brinkley	S.D.	7	41	5.9	20	0
Faulk	N.E.	7	34	4.9	18	0
B. Johnson	Hou.	6	90	15.0	40	1
Cameron	Clev.	6	33	5.5	15	0
Mulligan	N.Y.J.	5	58	11.6	41	0
Potter	Jax.	5	50	10.0	22	0
Hilliard	Mia.	5	49	9.8	18	0
Cochart	Cin.	5	44	8.8	25	1
Jones	K.C.	5	43	8.6	27	0
Osgood	Jax.	5	42	8.4	19	0
Caussin	Buff.	5	41	8.2	13	0
Marecic	Clev.	5	31	6.2	11	0
Charles	K.C.	5	9	1.8	9	1
Evans	Balt.	4	74	18.5	32	0
Cloherty	Jax.	4	57	14.3	21	0
L. Williams	Balt.	4	46	11.5	15	0
Miller	Jax.	4	42	10.5	14	1
Felton	Car.-Ind.	4	40	10.0	17	0
Urban	K.C.	4	35	8.8	24	1
Edelman	N.E.	4	34	8.5	11	0
Harper	Ten.	4	32	8.0	21	0
Saunders	Pitt.	4	29	7.3	14	1
Avery	Ten.	3	45	15.0	23	1
C. Mitchell	Clev.	3	31	10.3	19	0
T. Underwood	N.E.	3	30	10.0	13	0
Q.Johnson	Ten.	3	30	10.0	13	0
Baker	N.Y.J.	3	27	9.0	17	1
Price	Jax.	2	39	19.5	21	0
Cumberland	N.Y.J.	2	35	17.5	33	0
Shorts	Jax.	2	30	15.0	25	1
Graham	Ten.	2	25	12.5	21	1
Slater	N.E.	1	46	46.0	46	0
Mundy	Pitt.	1	33	33.0	33	0
Sperry	S.D.	1	32	32.0	32	0

Excludes players who gained fewer than 30 yards and did not score a touchdown.

NFC RECEIVING

	TEAM	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
White	Atl.	100	1,296	13.0	43	8
Graham	N.O.	99	1,310	13.2	59	11
C. Johnson	Det.	96	1,681	17.5	73	16
Harvin	Minn.	87	967	11.1	52	6
Sproles	N.O.	86	710	8.3	39	7
Pettigrew	Det.	83	777	9.4	27	5
Cruz	N.Y.G.	82	1,536	18.7	99	9
Fitzgerald	Ariz.	80	1,411	17.6	73	8
Colston	N.O.	80	1,143	14.3	50	8
Gonzalez	Atl.	80	875	10.9	30	7
S. Smith	Car.	79	1,394	17.6	77	7
Witten	Dall.	79	942	11.9	64	5
Nicks	N.Y.G.	76	1,192	15.7	68	7
Winslow	T.B.	75	763	10.2	37	2
Burleson	Det.	73	757	10.4	47	3
Crabtree	S.F.	72	874	12.1	52	4
Lloyd	Den.-St.L.	70	966	13.8	44	5
Nelson	G.B.	68	1,263	18.6	93	15
Gaffney	Wash.	68	947	13.9	45	5
G. Jennings	G.B.	67	949	14.2	79	9
V. Davis	S.F.	67	792	11.8	44	6
M. Williams	T.B.	65	771	11.9	42	3
Bryant	Dall.	63	928	14.7	50	9
Maclin	Phil.	63	859	13.6	59	5
Celek	Phil.	62	811	13.1	73	5
F. Davis	Wash.	59	796	13.5	42	3
D. Jackson	Phil.	58	961	16.6	62	4
Finley	G.B.	55	767	13.9	41	8
Jones	Atl.	54	959	17.8	80	8
Robinson	Dall.	54	858	15.9	74	11
Doucet	Ariz.	54	689	12.8	70	5
Avant	Phil.	52	679	13.1	35	1
L. Moore	N.O.	52	627	12.1	47	8
Forte	Chi.	52	490	9.4	56	1
Baldwin	Sea.	51	788	15.5	55	4
Roberts	Ariz.	51	586	11.5	45	2
P. Thomas	N.O.	50	425	8.5	57	1
Helu	Wash.	49	379	7.7	47	1
T. Young	Det.	48	607	12.6	57	6
McCoy	Phil.	48	315	6.6	26	3
Stewart	Car.	47	413	8.8	26	1
Moss	Wash.	46	584	12.7	49	4
Olsen	Car.	45	540	12.0	44	5
Naanee	Car.	44	467	10.6	28	1
Austin	Dall.	43	579	13.5	53	7
S. Jackson	St.L.	42	333	7.9	50	1
Lumpkin	T.B.	41	291	7.1	16	0
Meachem	N.O.	40	620	15.5	67	6
Parker	T.B.	40	554	13.9	51	3
Manningham	N.Y.G.	39	523	13.4	47	4
Douglas	Atl.	39	498	12.8	49	1
J. Jones	G.B.	38	635	16.7	70	7
Ballard	N.Y.G.	38	604	15.9	41	4
Jenkins	Minn.	38	466	12.3	72	3
Knox	Chi.	37	727	19.6	81	2
R. Williams	Chi.	37	507	13.7	25	2
Shockey	Car.	37	455	12.3	29	4
Driver	G.B.	37	445	12.0	35	6
Obomanu	Sea.	37	436	11.8	55	2
LaFell	Car.	36	613	17.0	91	3
B. Gibson	St.L.	36	431	12.0	34	1
Shiancoe	Minn.	36	409	11.4	37	3
Briscoe	T.B.	35	387	11.1	46	6
Tate	Sea.	35	382	10.9	33	3
Bradshaw	N.Y.G.	34	267	7.9	26	2
F. Jones	Dall.	33	221	6.7	27	0
Henderson	N.O.	32	503	15.7	79	2
Rice	Sea.	32	484	15.1	52	2
Benn	T.B.	30	441	14.7	65	3
Starks	G.B.	29	216	7.4	17	0
Kendricks	St.L.	28	352	12.6	45	0
Lynch	Sea.	28	212	7.6	26	1
Best	Det.	27	287	10.6	60	1
Sanzenbacher	Chi.	27	276	10.2	22	3
King	Ariz.	27	271	10.0	48	3
Salas	St.L.	27	264	9.8	21	0
Pettis	St.L.	27	256	9.5	35	0
Ware	N.Y.G.	27	170	6.3	22	0
Aromashodu	Minn.	26	468	18.0	60	1
Alexander	St.L.	26	431	16.6	68	2
Hester	Chi.	26	369	14.2	53	1
Scheffler	Det.	26	347	13.3	36	6
Rudolph	Minn.	26	249	9.6	41	3
Morris	Det.	26	230	8.8	16	1
Murray	Dall.	26	183	7.0	18	0
Snelling	Atl.	26	179	6.9	21	1
Graham	T.B.	26	163	6.3	19	0
Cobb	G.B.	25	375	15.0	61	1
Z. Miller	Sea.	25	233	9.3	28	0
Bennett	Chi.	24	381	15.9	49	1
Heap	Ariz.	24	283	11.8	28	1
Gerhart	Minn.	23	190	8.3	42	3
Forsett	Sea.	23	128	5.6	18	0
Stallworth	Wash.	22	309	14.0	51	2
K. Smith	Det.	22	179	8.1	28	3
Rodgers	Atl.	21	188	9.0	31	1
K. Williams	S.F.	20	241	12.1	56	3
Grant	G.B.	19	268	14.1	80	1
Ginn	S.F.	19	220	11.6	26	0
Walker	S.F.	19	198	10.4	29	3
Bell	Chi.	19	133	7.0	25	1
M. Williams	Sea.	18	236	13.1	55	1
K. Davis	Chi.	18	206	11.4	32	5
Peterson	Minn.	18	139	7.7	22	1
Turner	Atl.	17	168	9.9	32	0
Bennett	Dall.	17	144	8.5	15	0
Gore	S.F.	17	114	6.7	13	0
Cooper	Phil.	16	315	19.7	58	1
Hunter	S.F.	16	195	12.2	44	0
D. Williams	Car.	16	135	8.4	32	0
Morgan	S.F.	15	220	14.7	30	1
Edwards	S.F.	15	181	12.1	24	0
Ogletree	Dall.	15	164	10.9	33	0
Blount	T.B.	15	148	9.9	35	0
Young	Wash.	15	146	9.7	27	0
Jacobs	N.Y.G.	15	128	8.5	40	1
Phillips	Dall.	15	101	6.7	12	1
Kuhn	G.B.	15	77	5.1	11	2
C. Williams	St.L.	14	93	6.6	16	0
Taylor	Ariz.	14	91	6.5	17	0
Stephens-Howling	Ariz.	13	234	18.0	73	2
Harbor	Phil.	13	163	12.5	27	1
Hankerson	Wash.	13	163	12.5	23	0
A. McCoy	Sea.	13	146	11.2	31	0
Austin	Wash.	12	137	11.4	32	0
Pascoe	N.Y.G.	12	136	11.3	22	0
Housler	Ariz.	12	133	11.1	21	0
Stocker	T.B.	12	92	7.7	24	0
Hynoski	N.Y.G.	12	83	6.9	14	0
Paulsen	Wash.	11	138	12.5	24	0
Smith	Phil.	11	124	11.3	20	1
Weems	Atl.	11	90	8.2	18	0
Miller	S.F.	11	83	7.5	30	1
Collins	N.O.	11	50	4.5	14	2
Ingram	N.O.	11	46	4.2	9	0
Hightower	Wash.	10	78	7.8	19	1
Palmer	Atl.	10	72	7.2	11	1
Madu	T.B.	10	72	7.2	15	0
Saine	G.B.	10	69	6.9	22	0
B. Wells	Ariz.	10	52	5.2	10	0
L. Washington	Sea.	10	48	4.8	9	0
Camarillo	Minn.	9	121	13.4	23	0
Barden	N.Y.G.	9	94	10.4	26	0
M. Robinson	Sea.	9	74	8.2	19	1
Bajema	St.L.	9	71	7.9	19	0
Royster	Wash.	9	68	7.6	16	0
Hurd	Chi.	8	109	13.6	28	0
L. Booker	Minn.	8	82	10.3	15	0
Sherman	Ariz.	8	72	9.0	19	0
Cooley	Wash.	8	65	8.1	17	0
K. Williams	Det.	8	62	7.8	12	0
Clutts	Chi.	8	48	6.0	10	0
Holley	Dall.	7	169	24.1	77	0
Armstrong	Wash.	7	103	14.7	50	2
Berrian	Minn.	7	91	13.0	30	0
Hoomanawanui	St.L.	7	83	11.9	27	0

D. Anderson	Hou.-Wash.	7	79	11.3	23	1
Spaeth	Chi.	7	50	7.1	13	2
Morrah	Sea.	6	74	12.3	21	0
Lorig	T.B.	6	53	8.8	22	0
Butler	Sea.	6	51	8.5	15	0
Heller	Det.	6	42	7.0	12	0
Crabtree	G.B.	6	38	6.3	15	1
Beckum	N.Y.G.	5	93	18.6	67	1
Barber	Chi.	5	50	10.0	16	0
Amendola	St.L.	5	45	9.0	18	0
R. Davis	Det.	4	63	15.8	22	0
Stroughter	T.B.	4	52	13.0	29	0
Hixon	N.Y.G.	4	50	12.5	22	1
Pianalto	T.B.	4	40	10.0	15	0
Stuckey	Ariz.	4	39	9.8	12	0
Mughelli	Atl.	4	25	6.3	19	2
B. Miller	St.L.	3	41	13.7	20	0
Fiammetta	Dall.	3	39	13.0	15	0
D. Thomas	N.Y.G.	3	37	12.3	14	0
Quarless	G.B.	3	36	12.0	21	0
Sampson	Ariz.	3	36	12.0	15	0
Schmitt	Phil.	3	32	10.7	13	0
Durham	Sea.	3	30	10.0	12	0
Hall	Phil.	3	20	6.7	16	1
Gilmore	N.O.	3	20	6.7	9	1
Lockette	Sea.	2	105	52.5	61	1
B. Burton	Minn.	2	38	19.0	21	0
Arrington	N.O.	2	31	15.5	17	0
Taylor	G.B.	1	4	4.0	4	1

Excludes players who gained fewer than 30 yards and did not score a touchdown.

AFC SCORING

PLAYER	TEAM	TD	XP/ATT	FG/ATT	2XP	PTS
Gostkowski	N.E.	0	59/59	28/33	0	143
Rackers	Hou.	0	39/40	32/38	0	135
Nugent	Cin.	0	33/34	33/38	0	132
Janikowski	Oak.	0	36/36	31/35	0	129
Cundiff	Balt.	0	38/38	28/37	0	122
Novak	S.D.	0	41/42	27/34	0	122
Bironas	Ten.	0	34/34	29/32	0	121
D. Carpenter	Mia.	0	26/26	29/34	0	113
R. Gronkowski	N.E.	18	0/0	0/0	0	108
Suisham	Pitt.	0	36/36	23/31	0	105
Folk	N.Y.J.	0	44/44	19/25	0	101
Scobee	Jax.	0	24/24	23/25	0	93
Vinatieri	Ind.	0	24/24	23/27	0	93
Dawson	Clev.	0	20/20	24/29	0	92
Succop	K.C.	0	20/20	24/30	0	92
Rice	Balt.	15	0/0	0/0	0	90
Prater	Den.	0	30/30	19/25	0	87
Foster	Hou.	12	0/0	0/0	0	72
Green-Ellis	N.E.	11	0/0	0/0	0	66
Jones-Drew	Jax.	11	0/0	0/0	0	66
Lindell	Buff.	0	25/25	13/15	0	64
Tolbert	S.D.	10	0/0	0/0	0	60
Decker	Den.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
V. Jackson	S.D.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
Mendenhall	Pitt.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
Welker	N.E.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
Burress	N.Y.J.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Bush	Oak.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Holmes	N.Y.J.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Wallace	Pitt.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Washington	Ten.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Rayner	Buff.	0	13/13	10/15	0	43
Bush	Mia.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Gates	S.D.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Green	Cin.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Hernandez	N.E.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
St. Johnson	Buff.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
T. Smith	Balt.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Tebow	Den.	6	0/0	0/0	2	40
Benson	Cin.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Chandler	Buff.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Dreessen	Hou.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Garcon	Ind.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Greene	N.Y.J.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Gresham	Cin.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
F. Jackson	Buff.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Marshall	Mia.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Mathews	S.D.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Moore	Oak.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Sanchez	N.Y.J.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Spiller	Buff.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
McGahee	Den.	5	0/0	0/0	1	32
Bowe	K.C.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Branch	N.E.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
D. Brown	Ind.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Cribbs	Clev.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Dickson	Balt.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Fasano	Mia.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Floyd	S.D.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Keller	N.Y.J.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
McFadden	Oak.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
D. Nelson	Buff.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
D. Williams	Ten.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Graham	Mia.-Balt.	0	8/8	6/7	0	26
Heyward-Bey	Oak.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
C. Johnson	Ten.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Moore	Clev.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Simpson	Cin.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Tate	Hou.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
D. Thomas	Den.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Wayne	Ind.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Bess	Mia.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Boldin	Balt.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Boss	Oak.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Brady	N.E.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Britt	Ten.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
A. Brown	Pitt.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Caldwell	Cin.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Clay	Mia.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Cook	Ten.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Daniels	Hou.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Fells	Den.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
J. Hill	Jax.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Hillis	Clev.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Jones	Hou.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Pitta	Balt.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Redman	Pitt.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Scott	Cin.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Tomlinson	N.Y.J.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Walter	Hou.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Ball	Den.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Battle	K.C.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Breaston	K.C.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
V. Brown	S.D.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
J. Campbell	Oak.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Carter	Ind.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Clark	Ind.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Cotchery	Pitt.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ford	Oak.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Hilliard	Mia.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
A. Johnson	Hou.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Little	Clev.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Massaquoi	Clev.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
L. McClain	K.C.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
McCluster	K.C.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Miller	Pitt.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Mat. Moore	Mia.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Reece	Oak.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Royal	Den.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Sanders	Pitt.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Schaub	Hou.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Schilens	Oak.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Scott	Buff.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
B. Smith	Buff.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ward	Pitt.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ward	Hou.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Watson	Clev.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Webb	Balt.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
West	Jax.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
R. Williams	Balt.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Woodhead	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	2	10
Brinkley	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	1	8
Addai	Ind.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Anderson	Ind.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Arenas	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Atkins	Cin.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Avery	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Babineaux	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Baker	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Baldwin	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Barnett	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Burnett	Mia.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Butler	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Byrd	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Campbell	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Casey	Hou.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Charles	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Choice	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Clay	Pitt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Cloherty	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Cochart	Cin.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Collie	Ind.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Collins	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Conner	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Crayton	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Curry	Oak.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Dalton	Cin.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Dillard	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Dunlap	Cin.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Edelman	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Flacco	Balt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Florence	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Flowers	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Goodman	Den.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Goodman	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Graham	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Gregory	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Hagan	Oak.-Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Haggan	Den.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Harper	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Harris	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Hartline	Mia.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
L. Hawkins	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Henne	Mia.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Hester	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Houshmandzadeh	Oak.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
B. Johnson	Hou.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
J. Johnson	Balt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Sp. Johnson	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Johnson	Pitt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
G. Jones	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Jones	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Kerley	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Lacey	Ind.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Lewis	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Locker	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Mariani	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
McCain	Hou.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
J. McClain	Balt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
McCourty	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
McKelvin	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
McKnight	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Miller	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Moore	Pitt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
S. Moore	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Moreno	Den.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Murphy	Oak.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Nelson	Cin.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ngata	Balt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ninkovich	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Norwood	Clev.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ochocinco	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ogbonnaya	Clev.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Palmer	Oak.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Polamalu	Pitt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Pope	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Potter	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Powers	Ind.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Revis	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ridley	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ringer	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Rivers	S.D.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Roosevelt	Buff.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Saunders	Pitt.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Scifres	S.D.	0	3/3	1/1	0	6
Shorts	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Slaton	Mia.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Slauson	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
W. Smith	Hou.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
A. Smith	Clev.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Stevens	Ten.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Tamme	Ind.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Tate	Cin.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
M. Thomas	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Thomas	Mia.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Trufant	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
P. Turner	N.Y.J.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Urban	K.C.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Vaughn	Den.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Vereen	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Wilfork	N.E.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Willis	Den.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Youboty	Jax.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Coutu	Buff.	0	3/3	0/1	0	3
Fitzpatrick	Buff.	0	0/0	0/0	1	2
Koch	Balt.	0	0/0	0/0	1	2
McClain	Oak.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Pouha	N.Y.J.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Sheppard	Buff.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Wilkerson	N.Y.J.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2

Team safeties credited to Pittsburgh (2), Cincinnati and N.Y. Jets.

NFC SCORING

PLAYER	TEAM	TD	XP/ATT	FG/ATT	2XP	PTS
Akers	S.F.	0	34/34	44/52	0	166
Kasay	N.O.	0	63/63	28/34	0	147
Crosby	G.B.	0	68/69	24/28	0	140
Bailey	Dall.	0	39/39	32/37	0	135
Bryant	Atl.	0	45/45	27/29	0	126

Hanson	Det.	0	54/54	24/29	0	126
Gould	Chi.	0	37/37	28/32	0	121
McCoy	Phil.	20	0/0	0/0	0	120
Gano	Wash.	0	25/26	31/41	0	118
Henery	Phil.	0	46/46	24/27	0	118
Mare	Car.	0	44/45	22/28	0	110
Hauschka	Sea.	0	34/34	25/30	0	109
Longwell	Minn.	0	38/39	22/28	0	104
Barth	T.B.	0	23/23	26/28	0	101
Tynes	N.Y.G.	0	43/43	19/24	0	100
C. Johnson	Det.	16	0/0	0/0	0	96
Feely	Ariz.	0	33/33	19/24	0	90
Nelson	G.B.	15	0/0	0/0	0	90
Newton	Car.	14	0/0	0/0	0	84
Jo. Brown	St.L.	0	18/18	21/28	0	81
Lynch	Sea.	13	0/0	0/0	0	78
Peterson	Minn.	13	0/0	0/0	0	78
Bradshaw	N.Y.G.	11	0/0	0/0	1	68
Graham	N.O.	11	0/0	0/0	0	66
Robinson	Dall.	11	0/0	0/0	0	66
Turner	Atl.	11	0/0	0/0	0	66
Sproles	N.O.	10	0/0	0/0	0	60
B. Wells	Ariz.	10	0/0	0/0	0	60
Bryant	Dall.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
Cruz	N.Y.G.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
Harvin	Minn.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
G. Jennings	G.B.	9	0/0	0/0	0	54
L. Moore	N.O.	8	0/0	0/0	2	52
Jacobs	N.Y.G.	8	0/0	0/0	1	50
Colston	N.O.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Finley	G.B.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Fitzgerald	Ariz.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Gore	S.F.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
Jones	Atl.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
White	Atl.	8	0/0	0/0	0	48
S. Smith	Car.	7	0/0	0/0	1	44
Austin	Dall.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Gonzalez	Atl.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
J. Jones	G.B.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Nicks	N.Y.G.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
K. Smith	Det.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
D. Williams	Car.	7	0/0	0/0	0	42
Scheffler	Det.	6	0/0	0/0	1	38
T. Young	Det.	6	0/0	0/0	1	38
Barber	Chi.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Briscoe	T.B.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
V. Davis	S.F.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Driver	G.B.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
S. Jackson	St.L.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Kuhn	G.B.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Meachem	N.O.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
P. Thomas	N.O.	6	0/0	0/0	0	36
Olsen	Car.	5	0/0	0/0	1	32
Blount	T.B.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Celek	Phil.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
K. Davis	Chi.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Doucet	Ariz.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Gaffney	Wash.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Ingram	N.O.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Lloyd	St.L.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Maclin	Phil.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Pettigrew	Det.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Stewart	Car.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Witten	Dall.	5	0/0	0/0	0	30
Crabtree	S.F.	4	0/0	0/0	1	26
Baldwin	Sea.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Ballard	N.Y.G.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Collins	N.O.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Forte	Chi.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Freeman	T.B.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Gerhart	Minn.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Hester	Chi.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
D. Jackson	Phil.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Manningham	N.Y.G.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Moss	Wash.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Peterson	Ariz.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Shockey	Car.	4	0/0	0/0	0	24
Benn	T.B.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Best	Det.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Burleson	Det.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Cobb	G.B.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
F. Davis	Wash.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Grant	G.B.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Helu	Wash.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Jenkins	Minn.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
King	Ariz.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
LaFell	Car.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Parker	T.B.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Rodgers	G.B.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Rudolph	Minn.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Sanzenbacher	Chi.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Shiancoe	Minn.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Tate	Sea.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Walker	S.F.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
M. Williams	T.B.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
K. Williams	S.F.	3	0/0	0/0	0	18
Winslow	T.B.	2	0/0	0/0	2	16
Alexander	St.L.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Armstrong	Wash.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Avril	Det.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Beck	Wash.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Browner	Sea.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Dixon	S.F.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ginn	S.F.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Henderson	N.O.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Hightower	Wash.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Houston	Det.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Hunter	S.F.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Knox	Chi.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Morris	Det.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Mughelli	Atl.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Murray	Dall.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Obomanu	Sea.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Parker	Phil.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Rice	Sea.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Roberts	Ariz.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
M. Robinson	Sea.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Rodgers	Atl.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ryan	Atl.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ale. Smith	S.F.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Spaeth	Chi.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Stallworth	Wash.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Stephens-Howling	Ariz.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Talib	T.B.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Tillman	Chi.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Webb	Minn.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
K. Williams	Det.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
R. Williams	Chi.	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
D. Anderson	Wash.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Aromashodu	Minn.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Avant	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Beckum	N.Y.G.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Bell	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Bennett	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Biermann	Atl.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Boley	N.Y.G.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Brees	N.O.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Brockel	Car.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
R. Brown	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Bryant	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
B. Carpenter	Det.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Clemens	St.L.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Cooper	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Crabtree	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Cutler	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Douglas	Atl.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Flynn	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Forsett	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
B. Gibson	St.L.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Gilmore	N.O.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Grossman	Wash.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Hall	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Harbor	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Hawthorne	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Heap	Ariz.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Hixon	N.Y.G.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Idonije	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ivory	N.O.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
T. Jackson	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Jenkins	N.O.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
F. Jones	Dall.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Kerrigan	Wash.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Lewis	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Lockette	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Lofton	Atl.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Mack	T.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Manning	N.Y.G.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Matthews	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
McNabb	Minn.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
N. Miller	St.L.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Miller	S.F.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
D.J. Moore	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Morgan	S.F.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Naanee	Car.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Newman	Dall.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Palmer	Atl.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Peprah	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Peters	Atl.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Phillips	Dall.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Pilares	Car.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Raji	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Rogers	S.F.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Rolle	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Romo	Dall.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Samuel	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Smith	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
A. Smith	Det.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Smith	Ariz.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Snelling	Atl.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Starks	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Stewart	St.L.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Tanner	Dall.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Taylor	Ariz.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Taylor	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Torain	Wash.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Torrence	N.O.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Tulloch	Det.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Urlacher	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Vick	Phil.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Vilma	N.O.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Walden	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
L. Washington	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Watson	T.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
T. Williams	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Edw. Williams	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
M. Williams	Sea.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
C. Williams	St.L.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Woodson	G.B.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Wright	Chi.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Young	Wash.	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Ware	N.Y.G.	0	0/0	0/0	2	4
J. Allen	Minn.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Applewhite	Car.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Barber	T.B.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Canty	N.Y.G.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
J. Hall	St.L.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Hankerson	Wash.	0	0/0	0/0	1	2
Hardy	Car.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Hargrove	Sea.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Hunt	Phil.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
McCown	Chi.	0	0/0	0/0	1	2
Paea	Chi.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Pierre-Paul	N.Y.G.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2
Ald. Smith	S.F.	0	0/0	0/0	0	2

Team safeties credited to Detroit and St. Louis.

AFC INTERCEPTIONS

PLAYER	TEAM	NO	YDS	LG	TD
Arrington	N.E.	7	92	28	0
Weddle	S.D.	7	89	26	0
Giordano	Oak.	5	130	62	0
Webb	Balt.	5	81	73	1
Revis	N.Y.J.	4	184	100	1
Nelson	Cin.	4	115	75	1
Cromartie	N.Y.J.	4	105	42	0
Flowers	K.C.	4	95	58	1
Davis	Mia.	4	60	28	0
Harris	N.Y.J.	4	55	35	1
Joseph	Hou.	4	40	29	0
J. Allen	Hou.	4	34	34	0
Wilson	Buff.	4	26	12	0
Carr	K.C.	4	17	14	0
Routt	Oak.	4	7	3	0
Lewis	K.C.	3	119	59	1
Byrd	Buff.	3	88	37	1
Barnett	Buff.	3	80	33	1
Florence	Buff.	3	64	30	1
M. Adams	Clev.	3	33	29	0
E. Reed	Balt.	3	25	16	0
McGraw	K.C.	3	4	4	0
Cason	S.D.	2	69	64	0
McCourty	Ten.	2	52	30	0
McCain	Hou.	2	48	38	1
J. Smith	Balt.	2	48	32	0
Demps	Hou.	2	47	42	0
Wilfork	N.E.	2	47	28	0
Goodman	Den.	2	46	26	1
Scott	Buff.	2	43	43	1
Molden	N.E.	2	40	27	0
McCourty	N.E.	2	38	38	0
Polamalu	Pitt.	2	33	33	0
Ninkovich	N.E.	2	30	18	1
Taylor	Pitt.	2	29	29	0
Landry	Jax.	2	28	28	0
S. Moore	N.E.	2	26	21	1
Lowery	Jax.	2	26	30	0
Lefeged	Ind.	2	25	25	0
Daniels	K.C.	2	25	25	0
Huff	Oak.	2	24	24	0
Manning	Hou.	2	22	22	0

Gilchrist	S.D.	2	22	21	0
Starks	Mia.	2	21	18	0
Powers	Ind.	2	19	13	1
D. Johnson	K.C.	2	18	17	0
M. Trent	Jax.	2	17	22	0
Hall	Cin.	2	15	15	0
K. Wilson	N.Y.J.	2	13	10	0
Gay	Pitt.	2	12	12	0
Suggs	Balt.	2	9	9	0
S. Smith	Mia.	2	7	7	0
Arenas	K.C.	2	5	5	0
Cushing	Hou.	2	5	5	0
Clements	Cin.	2	5	7	0
D. Coleman	Jax.	2	5	8	0
Mayo	N.E.	2	4	2	0
Posluszny	Jax.	2	2	2	0
Griffin	Ten.	2	0	0	0
S. Brown	Clev.	2	0	0	0
C. Bailey	Den.	2	0	0	0
Phillips	S.D.	2	0	0	0
Babineaux	Ten.	1	97	97	1
Wimbley	Oak.	1	73	73	0
M. Mitchell	Mia.	1	55	55	0
Vaughn	Den.	1	55	55	1
Spikes	S.D.	1	45	45	0
Odrick	Mia.	1	39	39	0
Rutland	Jax.	1	37	25	0
Burnett	Mia.	1	34	34	1
Lacey	Ind.	1	32	32	1
U. Young	Clev.	1	28	28	0
Brackett	Ind.	1	27	27	0
Gregory	S.D.	1	26	26	1
Dar. Smith	Jax.	1	25	25	0
D. Jackson	Clev.	1	24	24	0
McKelvin	Buff.	1	21	21	0
Bell	Mia.	1	20	20	0
Moore	Den.	1	18	18	0
Guyton	N.E.	1	17	17	0
Haggan	Den.	1	16	16	1
Bullitt	Ind.	1	15	15	0
Houston	Oak.	1	15	15	0
C. Harris	Den.	1	15	15	0
Rogers	Buff.	1	15	15	0
Dansby	Mia.	1	14	14	0
Mauga	N.Y.J.	1	11	11	0
Middleton	Jax.	1	11	11	0
Clark	Pitt.	1	10	10	0
Lewis	Pitt.	1	9	9	0
J. McClain	Balt.	1	8	8	0
Pace	N.Y.J.	1	8	8	0
Finnegan	Ten.	1	8	8	0
Oliver	S.D.	1	7	7	0
Witherspoon	Ten.	1	7	7	0
Hope	Ten.	1	7	7	0
Mincey	Jax.	1	5	5	0
Skrine	Clev.	1	5	5	0
Mundy	Pitt.	1	5	5	0
Wilson	Mia.	1	5	5	0
Verner	Ten.	1	4	4	0
Corner	Buff.	1	4	4	0
Ruud	Ten.	1	4	4	0
Lewis	Balt.	1	4	4	0
Fujita	Clev.	1	3	3	0
Allen	Jax.	1	3	3	0
Butler	S.D.	1	2	2	0
Maualuga	Cin.	1	2	2	0
Wilhite	Den.	1	2	2	0
S. Brown	N.E.	1	2	2	0
Van Dyke	Oak.	1	2	2	0
E. Smith	N.Y.J.	1	2	2	0
Kelly	Oak.	1	1	1	0
Mathis	Jax.	1	1	1	0
R. Jones	Mia.	1	1	1	0
Woodley	Pitt.	1	1	1	0
Branch	Oak.	1	0	0	0
M. Johnson	Cin.	1	0	0	0
Chung	N.E.	1	0	0	0
Mitchell	Oak.	1	0	0	0
Carroll	Mia.	1	0	0	0
Jackson	Hou.	1	0	0	0
Angerer	Ind.	1	0	0	0
Searcy	Buff.	1	0	0	0
A. Williams	Buff.	1	0	0	0
McCarthy	Ten.	1	0	0	0
Leonhard	N.Y.J.	1	0	0	0
Pool	N.Y.J.	1	0	0	0
Timmons	Pitt.	1	0	0	0
Ndukwe	Oak.	1	0	0	0
Pollard	Balt.	1	0	0	0
Youboty	Jax.	1	0	0	0

NFC INTERCEPTIONS

PLAYER	TEAM	NO	YDS	LG	TD
Woodson	G.B.	7	63	30	1
Browner	Sea.	6	220	94	2
Rogers	S.F.	6	106	31	1
Webster	N.Y.G.	6	71	25	0
Goldson	S.F.	6	53	21	0
Houston	Det.	5	225	100	2
Peprah	G.B.	5	147	76	1
T. Williams	G.B.	4	92	43	1
Lee	Dall.	4	87	37	0
Newman	Dall.	4	80	43	1
DeCoud	Atl.	4	77	49	0
Shields	G.B.	4	68	60	0
Coleman	Phil.	4	60	35	0
Phillips	N.Y.G.	4	50	31	0
E. Wright	Det.	4	49	22	0
Sherman	Sea.	4	45	33	0
Robinson	N.O.	4	31	25	0
D.J. Moore	Chi.	4	31	20	1
Chancellor	Sea.	4	27	9	0
Ross	N.Y.G.	4	19	19	0
Brown	S.F.	4	15	11	0
Hawthorne	Sea.	3	111	77	1
Marshall	Ariz.	3	83	49	0
Tillman	Chi.	3	66	44	2
A. Smith	Det.	3	64	30	1
Wright	Chi.	3	60	36	1
Samuel	Phil.	3	53	20	1
Spievey	Det.	3	47	30	0
Matthews	G.B.	3	47	38	1
Hall	Wash.	3	46	26	0
Gamble	Car.	3	43	24	0
Atogwe	Wash.	3	42	26	0
Gordy	St.L.	3	37	30	0
Chaney	Phil.	3	25	14	0
S. Martin	Car.	3	16	15	0
Barber	T.B.	3	12	12	0
Graham	Chi.	3	11	10	0
Asomugha	Phil.	3	10	6	0
Urlacher	Chi.	3	7	8	0
Burnett	G.B.	3	0	0	0
Sanford	Minn.	2	69	52	0
T. Jackson	T.B.	2	59	43	0
Moore	Atl.	2	56	29	0
Talib	T.B.	2	55	28	2
Whitner	S.F.	2	48	48	0
Mack	T.B.	2	47	40	1
Allen	Phil.	2	44	31	0
Bush	G.B.	2	39	35	0
Lofton	Atl.	2	30	26	1
Godfrey	Car.	2	30	21	0
Barnes	Wash.	2	30	30	0
Robinson	Atl.	2	28	14	0
Bryant	Sea.	2	25	20	1
E. Thomas	Sea.	2	19	11	0
Brock	S.F.	2	18	18	0
D. Washington	Ariz.	2	16	16	0
Laurinaitis	St.L.	2	15	15	0
Sensabaugh	Dall.	2	11	11	0
Mikell	St.L.	2	11	11	0
Tulloch	Det.	2	9	9	0
J. Anderson	Car.	2	5	5	0
Hayden	Atl.	2	3	2	0
Jennings	Chi.	2	2	1	0
Francois	G.B.	2	1	1	0
Peterson	Ariz.	2	1	1	0
Franks	Atl.	2	0	0	0
Wilson	Wash.	2	0	0	0
Fletcher	Wash.	2	0	0	0
Rolle	N.Y.G.	2	-1	0	0
Stanford	Car.	1	53	53	0
King	St.L.	1	51	51	0
Biermann	Atl.	1	50	50	1
Torrence	N.O.	1	42	42	1
B. Carpenter	Det.	1	34	34	1
Abdullah	Minn.	1	32	32	0
Raymond	Minn.	1	31	31	0
Grimes	Atl.	1	29	29	0
Hood	St.L.	1	27	27	0
Stewart	St.L.	1	27	27	1
Walls	Atl.	1	23	23	0
Culliver	S.F.	1	23	23	0
Senn	Car.	1	21	21	0
Nelson	Car.	1	20	20	0
C. Harris	Det.	1	19	19	0
Wilson	Ariz.	1	17	17	0
Hatcher	Dall.	1	16	16	0
Trufant	Sea.	1	15	15	0
Ball	Dall.	1	15	15	0
Lynch	T.B.	1	14	14	0
J. Allen	Minn.	1	14	14	0
Shanle	N.O.	1	12	12	0
Smith	G.B.	1	11	11	0
R. Smith	S.F.	1	11	11	0
Willis	S.F.	1	10	10	0
Kiwanuka	N.Y.G.	1	9	9	0
Blackburn	N.Y.G.	1	9	9	0
Kerrigan	Wash.	1	9	9	1
Keiser	Car.	1	9	9	0
Hayes	T.B.	1	8	8	0
Levy	Det.	1	7	7	0
Walker	Dall.	1	5	5	0
Peterson	Atl.	1	4	4	0
Avril	Det.	1	4	4	1
Chamberlain	St.L.	1	4	4	0
Jenkins	Dall.	1	3	3	0
A. Allen	Minn.	1	3	3	0
Winfield	Minn.	1	3	3	0
Greer	N.O.	1	2	2	0
Peters	Atl.	1	1	1	0
Adams	Sea.	1	0	0	0
Biggers	T.B.	1	0	0	0
Campbell	Ariz.	1	0	0	0
Foster	T.B.	1	0	0	0
Amukamara	N.Y.G.	1	0	0	0
Conte	Chi.	1	0	0	0
Jefferson	Ariz.	1	0	0	0
Grant	N.Y.G.	1	0	0	0
Briggs	Chi.	1	0	0	0
Scandrick	Dall.	1	0	0	0
Griffin	Minn.	1	0	0	0
Herring	N.O.	1	0	0	0
Q. Black	T.B.	1	0	0	0
C. Dahl	St.L.	1	-3	-3	0
Porter	N.O.	1	-7	-7	0

AFC KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER	TEAM	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
McKnight	N.Y.J.	34	1,073	31.6	107	1
Goodman	S.D.	34	936	27.5	105	1
A. Brown	Pitt.	27	737	27.3	52	0
Cribbs	Clev.	39	974	25.0	63	0
Gates	Mia.	34	843	24.8	77	0
Karim	Jax.	27	652	24.1	37	0
Tate	Cin.	42	998	23.8	45	0
Mariani	Ten.	32	748	23.4	49	0
McCluster	K.C.	25	557	22.3	35	0
Woodhead	N.E.	20	437	21.9	37	0
Lefeged	Ind.	31	578	18.6	51	0
NON-QUALIFIERS						
Demps	Hou.	5	169	33.8	50	0
Ford	Oak.	11	341	31.0	101	1
Vaughn	Den.	7	210	30.0	67	0
D. Reed	Balt.	18	534	29.7	77	0
Webb	Balt.	2	59	29.5	37	0
Rogers	Buff.	13	373	28.7	54	0
Slaton	Mia.	3	85	28.3	42	0
McCann	Dal-Bal-Oak.	16	440	27.5	91	0
Manning	Hou.	13	356	27.4	46	0
Cosby	Ind.	17	457	26.9	63	0
Scott	Cin.	1	26	26.0	26	0
Decker	Den.	2	50	25.0	34	0
Cromartie	N.Y.J.	17	417	24.5	46	0
Skrine	Clev.	3	72	24.0	32	0
Spiller	Buff.	6	143	23.8	35	0
Edelman	N.E.	12	284	23.7	37	0
Hester	S.D.	3	71	23.7	24	0
Zbikowski	Balt.	9	209	23.2	30	0
D. Harris	Jax.	14	308	22.0	35	0
Horne	K.C.	2	44	22.0	24	0
L. Williams	Balt.	5	109	21.8	37	0
Ridley	N.E.	7	152	21.7	32	0
McKelvin	Buff.	2	43	21.5	22	0
Arenas	K.C.	17	362	21.3	35	0
M. Adams	Clev.	2	42	21.0	30	0
T. Jones	Oak.	8	165	20.6	46	0
McManis	Hou.	10	205	20.5	45	0
Shorts	Jax.	4	82	20.5	23	0
Willis	Den.	8	163	20.4	29	0
Baker	N.Y.J.	3	60	20.0	29	0
B. Smith	Buff.	15	282	18.8	28	0
Sanders	Pitt.	5	93	18.6	25	0
Moore	Oak.	2	37	18.5	20	0
Slater	N.E.	4	68	17.0	22	0
Brinkley	S.D.	2	34	17.0	22	0
Royal	Den.	3	47	15.7	20	0
Branch	Oak.	2	31	15.5	16	0
Gilchrist	S.D.	3	46	15.3	20	0
Conner	N.Y.J.	2	29	14.5	18	0
Leach	Balt.	2	29	14.5	15	0
Marecic	Clev.	4	46	11.5	13	0
Campbell	Ten.	0	84	0.0	84	1

Excludes players who gained fewer than 25 yards.

NFC KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER	TEAM	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Cobb	G.B.	34	941	27.7	108	1
Ginn	S.F.	29	800	27.6	102	1
Sproles	N.O.	40	1,089	27.2	92	0
Stroughter	T.B.	20	540	27.0	78	0
Pilares	Car.	23	590	25.7	101	1
Norwood	St.L.	24	611	25.5	47	0
Logan	Det.	33	832	25.2	42	0
L. Washington	Sea.	43	1,084	25.2	54	0
D. Thomas	N.Y.G.	25	607	24.3	40	0
Stephens-Howling	Ariz.	36	857	23.8	37	0
Weems	Atl.	24	563	23.5	37	0
Banks	Wash.	51	1,174	23.0	47	0
Porter	St.L.	25	554	22.2	32	0
Parker	T.B.	20	439	22.0	45	0
Hester	Chi.	33	723	21.9	98	1
Lewis	Phil.	31	669	21.6	33	0
NON-QUALIFIERS						
Lissemore	Dall.	1	38	38.0	38	0
Baldwin	Sea.	1	37	37.0	37	0
Harvin	Minn.	16	520	32.5	104	1
Harris	Dall.	8	231	28.9	51	0
Armstrong	Wash.	1	28	28.0	28	0
Sherels	Minn.	16	445	27.8	78	0
F. Jones	Dall.	7	186	26.6	69	0
Knox	Chi.	15	397	26.5	56	0
Hunter	S.F.	6	156	26.0	43	0
K. Williams	S.F.	4	104	26.0	33	0
Rodgers-Cromartie	Phil.	2	52	26.0	29	0
Pugh	Car.	2	51	25.5	28	0
Jefferson	Ariz.	14	356	25.4	51	0
Scott	N.Y.G.	14	341	24.4	38	0
L. Booker	Minn.	19	450	23.7	68	0
Jernigan	N.Y.G.	8	186	23.3	31	0
Goodson	Car.	11	250	22.7	31	0
Bell	Chi.	2	45	22.5	25	0
Hall	Phil.	2	43	21.5	24	0
Blackmon	N.Y.G.	2	43	21.5	32	0
Pettis	St.L.	3	62	20.7	24	0
Saine	G.B.	2	40	20.0	20	0
Ogletree	Dall.	6	114	19.0	25	0
Owusu-Ansah	Dall.	3	56	18.7	23	0
Bryant	Dall.	3	55	18.3	26	0
Murray	Dall.	2	36	18.0	22	0
N. Miller	Oak.-St.L.	6	104	17.3	23	0
R. Davis	Det.	2	34	17.0	18	0
Spurlock	T.B.	2	33	16.5	21	0
Roberts	Ariz.	2	33	16.5	21	0
R. Brown	Phil.	2	28	14.0	25	0
Phillips	Dall.	2	26	13.0	16	0
Edwards	Car.	3	35	11.7	17	0

Excludes players who gained fewer than 25 yards.

AFC PUNT RETURNS

PLAYER	TEAM	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Arenas	K.C.	32	7	410	12.8	37	0
Bess	Mia.	37	24	442	11.9	25	0
Cribbs	Clev.	34	8	388	11.4	84	1
Kerley	N.Y.J.	29	16	317	10.9	53	0
A. Brown	Pitt.	30	26	325	10.8	60	1
Mariani	Ten.	46	18	490	10.7	79	1
Tate	Cin.	51	17	543	10.6	56	1
Jones	Hou.	49	7	518	10.6	79	1
Edelman	N.E.	28	7	296	10.6	72	1
Webb	Balt.	30	20	301	10.0	68	1
Cosby	Ind.	27	9	269	10.0	30	0
Crayton	S.D.	22	9	202	9.2	31	0
Moore	Oak.	25	7	216	8.6	34	0
NON-QUALIFIERS							
A. Jones	Cin.	2	0	67	33.5	63	0
Decker	Den.	6	1	133	22.2	90	1
McKelvin	Buff.	8	11	156	19.5	80	1
Royal	Den.	12	9	194	16.2	85	1
McCluster	K.C.	6	3	65	10.8	22	0
Gates	Mia.	3	0	32	10.7	17	0
Welker	N.E.	8	6	82	10.3	25	0
Spiller	Buff.	13	8	127	9.8	45	0
E. Reed	Balt.	3	5	29	9.7	16	0
Leonhard	N.Y.J.	9	5	83	9.2	15	0
Parrish	Buff.	5	2	46	9.2	28	0
Norwood	Clev.	4	1	35	8.8	14	0
Bush	Mia.	6	0	52	8.7	16	0
McCann	Dall.-Oak.	5	1	42	8.4	17	0
Sanders	Pitt.	3	0	22	7.3	10	0
Walters	S.D.	8	3	45	5.6	13	0
McKnight	N.Y.J.	5	0	26	5.2	12	0
Lefeged	Ind.	9	4	42	4.7	21	0
M. Thomas	Jax.	19	5	88	4.6	28	0
Shorts	Jax.	12	6	50	4.2	27	0
White	Ind.	7	10	22	3.1	13	0
Garcon	Ind.	16	8	44	2.8	20	0

Excludes players who gained fewer than 20 yards.

NFC PUNT RETURNS

PLAYER	TEAM	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Hester	Chi.	28	15	454	16.2	82	2
Peterson	Ariz.	44	22	699	15.9	99	4
Ginn	S.F.	38	18	466	12.3	55	1
Cobb	G.B.	26	18	295	11.3	80	1
L. Washington	Sea.	41	16	464	11.3	37	0
Sproles	N.O.	29	19	294	10.1	72	1
Weems	Atl.	32	19	315	9.8	42	0
Parker	T.B.	23	13	210	9.1	34	0
Banks	Wash.	36	9	328	9.1	55	0
Sherels	Minn.	33	20	277	8.4	53	0
Logan	Det.	37	28	301	8.1	28	0
Edwards	Car.	32	9	176	5.5	17	0
NON-QUALIFIERS							
K. Williams	S.F.	2	4	41	20.5	36	0
Ogletree	Dall.	2	0	35	17.5	25	0
N. Miller	Oak.-St.L.	10	10	147	14.7	88	1
Salas	St.L.	2	3	29	14.5	29	0
Hall	Phil.	7	12	76	10.9	30	0
Hixon	N.Y.G.	3	3	31	10.3	18	0
Pettis	St.L.	15	10	139	9.3	39	0
R. Smith	S.F.	4	1	37	9.3	14	0
Owusu-Ansah	Dall.	6	3	47	7.8	21	0
Maclin	Phil.	4	3	29	7.3	11	0
Ross	N.Y.G.	14	13	99	7.1	18	0
Bryant	Dall.	15	5	103	6.9	20	0
D. Jackson	Phil.	17	12	114	6.7	51	0
Harris	Dall.	15	6	80	5.3	14	0
Blackmon	N.Y.G.	6	2	25	4.2	16	0
Spurlock	T.B.	6	1	21	3.5	15	0

Excludes players who gained fewer than 20 yards.

AFC FIELD GOALS

	TEAM	1-19 YDS	20-29 YDS	30-39 YDS	40-49 YDS	50 OR LONGER	TOT	AVG YDS ATT	AVG YDS MADE	AVG YDS MISS	LG
Scobee	Jax.	1-1	5-5	5-5	7-8	5-6	23-25	39.5	38.6	50.0	55
		1.000	1.000	1.000	.875	.833	.920				
Bironas	Ten.	0-0	5-5	9-10	9-10	6-7	29-32	40.6	39.9	47.3	53
		.000	1.000	.900	.900	.857	.906				
Janikowski	Oak.	1-1	8-8	5-5	10-11	7-10	31-35	41.6	39.6	57.3	63
		1.000	1.000	1.000	.909	.700	.886				
Nugent	Cin.	0-0	14-14	5-8	14-16	0-0	33-38	34.7	34.0	39.0	49
		.000	1.000	.625	.875	.000	.868				
D. Carpenter	Mia.	0-0	10-11	6-7	11-12	2-4	29-34	36.4	35.4	42.2	58
		.000	.909	.857	.917	.500	.853				
Vinatieri	Ind.	0-0	7-7	6-7	8-10	2-3	23-27	36.9	35.8	43.5	53
		.000	1.000	.857	.800	.667	.852				
Gostkowski	N.E.	1-1	12-13	5-6	9-11	1-2	28-33	34.3	33.0	41.4	50
		1.000	.923	.833	.818	.500	.849				
Rackers	Hou.	0-0	14-14	10-11	4-8	4-5	32-38	35.5	33.6	45.7	54
		.000	1.000	.909	.500	.800	.842				
Dawson	Clev.	0-0	7-9	3-4	7-8	7-8	24-29	38.7	38.9	37.4	54
		.000	.778	.750	.875	.875	.828				
Succop	K.C.	1-1	7-7	6-7	7-12	3-3	24-30	36.9	34.8	45.5	54
		1.000	1.000	.857	.583	1.000	.800				
Novak	S.D.	0-0	11-11	4-5	8-11	4-7	27-34	38.9	36.5	47.9	53
		.000	1.000	.800	.727	.571	.794				
Folk	N.Y.J.	0-0	5-6	6-6	5-7	3-6	19-25	39.0	37.0	45.2	51
		.000	.833	1.000	.714	.500	.760				
Prater	Den.	0-0	5-6	8-8	3-7	3-4	19-25	38.7	37.3	43.3	59
		.000	.833	1.000	.429	.750	.760				
Cundiff	Balt.	1-1	9-9	10-12	7-9	1-6	28-37	36.7	34.0	45.2	51
		1.000	1.000	.833	.778	.167	.757				
Suisham	Pitt.	2-2	8-8	6-8	6-11	1-2	23-31	35.5	33.0	42.5	51
		1.000	1.000	.750	.545	.500	.742				
NON-QUALIFIERS											
Scifres	S.D.	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1	40.0	40.0	0.0	40
		.000	.000	.000	1.000	.000	1.000				
Lindell	Buff.	0-0	6-6	2-3	5-6	0-0	13-15	35.4	34.5	41.5	49
		.000	1.000	.667	.833	.000	.867				
Graham	Mia.-Bal.	0-0	4-4	0-0	2-3	0-0	6-7	34.6	32.5	47.0	48
		.000	1.000	.000	.667	.000	.857				
Rayner	Buff.	0-0	5-6	3-4	0-1	2-4	10-15	36.7	34.4	41.4	56
		.000	.833	.750	.000	.500	.667				
Coutu	Buff.	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	45.0	0.0	45.0	0
		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000				

NFC FIELD GOALS

	TEAM	1-19 YDS	20-29 YDS	30-39 YDS	40-49 YDS	50 OR LONGER	TOT	AVG YDS ATT	AVG YDS MADE	AVG YDS MISS	LG
Bryant	Atl.	2-2	9-9	9-9	5-7	2-2	27-29	33.3	32.5	43.5	51
		1.000	1.000	1.000	.714	1.000	.931				
Barth	T.B.	0-0	5-5	6-6	13-14	2-3	26-28	39.9	39.1	50.5	55
		.000	1.000	1.000	.929	.667	.929				
Henery	Phil.	0-0	10-10	9-11	4-4	1-2	24-27	33.4	32.0	45.0	51
		.000	1.000	.818	1.000	.500	.889				
Gould	Chi.	0-0	10-10	6-6	6-10	6-6	28-32	37.3	36.5	43.5	57
		.000	1.000	1.000	.600	1.000	.875				
Bailey	Dall.	1-1	8-9	11-11	10-12	2-4	32-37	36.4	35.2	44.4	51
		1.000	.889	1.000	.833	.500	.865				
Crosby	G.B.	1-1	4-5	14-14	3-5	2-3	24-28	36.6	35.5	43.3	58
		1.000	.800	1.000	.600	.667	.857				
Akers	S.F.	2-2	16-16	13-14	6-11	7-9	44-52	36.7	35.1	45.5	55
		1.000	1.000	.929	.545	.778	.846				
Hauschka	Sea.	2-2	5-6	9-10	7-8	2-4	25-30	36.7	35.4	43.0	52
		1.000	.833	.900	.875	.500	.833				
Hanson	Det.	0-0	9-9	8-9	2-4	5-7	24-29	36.9	34.8	47.0	51
		.000	1.000	.889	.500	.714	.828				
Kasay	N.O.	0-0	11-11	10-10	5-8	2-5	28-34	36.6	34.3	47.3	53
		.000	1.000	1.000	.625	.400	.824				
Feely	Ariz.	0-0	9-9	4-6	5-7	1-2	19-24	35.8	34.0	42.8	51
		.000	1.000	.667	.714	.500	.792				
Tynes	N.Y.G.	0-0	12-12	3-4	3-5	1-3	19-24	33.9	30.6	46.6	50
		.000	1.000	.750	.600	.333	.792				
Longwell	Minn.	0-0	7-7	7-8	6-10	2-3	22-28	38.1	36.0	45.8	53
		.000	1.000	.875	.600	.667	.786				
Mare	Car.	1-1	7-7	6-9	8-9	0-2	22-28	35.0	33.2	41.3	45
		1.000	1.000	.667	.889	.000	.786				
Gano	Wash.	0-0	14-15	5-9	8-11	4-6	31-41	36.8	35.4	41.3	59
		.000	.933	.556	.727	.667	.756				
Jo. Brown	St.L.	0-0	7-7	6-7	8-12	0-2	21-28	38.6	36.4	45.1	49
		.000	1.000	.857	.667	.000	.750				

AFC SACKS

	TEAM	NO
Suggs	Balt.	14.0
Hali	K.C.	12.0
Barwin	Hou.	11.5
Miller	Den.	11.5
Barnes	S.D.	11.0
M. Anderson	N.E.	10.0
A. Carter	N.E.	10.0
Dumervil	Den.	9.5
Mathis	Ind.	9.5
J. Harrison	Pitt.	9.0
Woodley	Pitt.	9.0
Freeney	Ind.	8.5
Sheard	Clev.	8.5
C. Wake	Mia.	8.5
Mincey	Jax.	8.0
Atkins	Cin.	7.5
Kelly	Oak.	7.5
Klug	Ten.	7.0
Taylor	Mia.	7.0
Wimbley	Oak.	7.0
Fanene	Cin.	6.5
Ninkovich	N.E.	6.5
A. Smith	Hou.	6.5
M. Johnson	Cin.	6.0
Maybin	N.Y.J.	6.0
McPhee	Balt.	6.0
Odrick	Mia.	6.0
Reed	Hou.	6.0
Seymour	Oak.	6.0
Dareus	Buff.	5.5
Houston	K.C.	5.5
Kruger	Balt.	5.5
Watt	Hou.	5.5
Bryant	Oak.	5.0
Harris	N.Y.J.	5.0
Kelsay	Buff.	5.0
McClain	Oak.	5.0
Ngata	Balt.	5.0
Rubin	Clev.	5.0
D.J. Williams	Den.	5.0
M. Williams	Hou.	5.0
Dunlap	Cin.	4.5
Pace	N.Y.J.	4.5
Redding	Balt.	4.5
Scott	N.Y.J.	4.5
Starks	Mia.	4.5
Ball	Ten.	4.0
Cushing	Hou.	4.0
McBean	Den.	4.0
Rucker	Cin.	4.0
Taylor	Clev.	4.0
Thomas	S.D.	4.0
Crocker	Cin.	3.5
Gocong	Clev.	3.5
D. Jackson	Clev.	3.5
Phillips	S.D.	3.5
Roth	Jax.	3.5
Dar. Smith	Jax.	3.5
Westerman	N.Y.J.	3.5
Wilfork	N.E.	3.5
Anderson	Ind.	3.0
Ayers	Den.	3.0
Barnett	Buff.	3.0
Dawkins	Den.	3.0
T. Harris	S.D.	3.0
J. Jones	Ten.	3.0
Keisel	Pitt.	3.0
Love	N.E.	3.0
Wilkerson	N.Y.J.	3.0
Worilds	Pitt.	3.0
Aiualu	Jax.	2.5
Burnett	Mia.	2.5
Casey	Ten.	2.5
Chick	Jax.	2.5
D. Edwards	Buff.	2.5
Garay	S.D.	2.5
Geathers	Cin.	2.5
Gilberry	K.C.	2.5
J. Johnson	Balt.	2.5
McDaniel	Mia.	2.5
Moats	Buff.	2.5
Morgan	Ten.	2.5
Peko	Cin.	2.5
E. Smith	N.Y.J.	2.5
Ayers	Ten.	2.0
Bell	Mia.	2.0
Brayton	Ind.	2.0
Butler	S.D.	2.0
D. Coleman	Jax.	2.0
Dansby	Mia.	2.0
Deaderick	N.E.	2.0
English	S.D.	2.0
Farrior	Pitt.	2.0
Gordon	K.C.	2.0
Heard	Buff.	2.0
Jamison	Hou.	2.0
Sp. Johnson	Buff.	2.0
D. Johnson	K.C.	2.0
R. Jones	Mia.	2.0
Lewis	Balt.	2.0
Moala	Ind.	2.0
Nelson	Cin.	2.0
Pollard	Balt.	2.0
Posluszny	Jax.	2.0
Timmons	Pitt.	2.0
Wilhite	Den.	2.0
Witherspoon	Ten.	2.0
Ayanbadejo	Balt.	1.5
Dixon	N.Y.J.	1.5
Foote	Pitt.	1.5
Hayes	Ten.	1.5
Hood	Pitt.	1.5
Lawson	Cin.	1.5
J. Mitchell	Clev.	1.5
Moss	Oak.	1.5
Angerer	Ind.	1.0
Arenas	K.C.	1.0
Bailey	K.C.	1.0
Branch	Oak.	1.0
T. Brown	Clev.	1.0
Byrd	Buff.	1.0
Carr	Balt.	1.0
Carrington	Buff.	1.0
Q. Carter	Den.	1.0
Chung	N.E.	1.0
Clark	Pitt.	1.0
Clements	Cin.	1.0
Cody	Hou.	1.0
Culver	Mia.	1.0
Davis	Mia.	1.0
DeVito	N.Y.J.	1.0
Douzable	Jax.	1.0
Ellis	N.E.	1.0
Finnegan	Ten.	1.0
Giordano	Oak.	1.0
Gregg	K.C.	1.0
Haden	Clev.	1.0
Heyward	Pitt.	1.0
Houston	Oak.	1.0
Howard	Cin.	1.0
Hughes	Ind.	1.0
Hunter	Den.	1.0
T. Jackson	K.C.	1.0
Jennings	Cin.	1.0
LaBoy	S.D.	1.0
Lane	Jax.	1.0
Liuget	S.D.	1.0
Lowery	Jax.	1.0
V. Martin	S.D.	1.0
Mathews	Ind.	1.0
Mayo	N.E.	1.0
J. McClain	Balt.	1.0
McCourty	Ten.	1.0
McGraw	K.C.	1.0
McLendon	Pitt.	1.0
Merriman	Buff.	1.0
Misi	Mia.	1.0
Mitchell	Hou.	1.0
Mitchell	Oak.	1.0
M. Mitchell	Mia.	1.0
Morrison	Buff.	1.0
Mosley	Jax.	1.0
Paxson	Clev.	1.0
Pitoitua	N.Y.J.	1.0
Polamalu	Pitt.	1.0
Pouha	N.Y.J.	1.0
E. Reed	Balt.	1.0
Scott	Buff.	1.0
Session	Jax.	1.0
Shaughnessy	Oak.	1.0
Sheppard	Oak.	1.0
Sims	Cin.	1.0
S. Smith	Ten.	1.0
Spikes	S.D.	1.0
Strickland	N.Y.J.	1.0
Ward	Clev.	1.0
Warren	N.E.	1.0
Webb	Balt.	1.0
Wheeler	Ind.	1.0
Zbikowski	Balt.	1.0
Allen	Jax.	.5
Batten	Buff.	.5
Benard	Clev.	.5
Braman	Hou.	.5
Collins	Jax.	.5
Landry	Jax.	.5
Marks	Ten.	.5
Nading	Hou.	.5
Nolan	Hou.	.5
Pool	N.Y.J.	.5
Pryor	N.E.	.5
Schaefering	Clev.	.5
Selvie	Jax.	.5
Skuta	Cin.	.5
Wright	N.E.	.5

NFC SACKS

	TEAM	NO
J. Allen	Minn.	22.0
Ware	Dall.	19.5
Babin	Phil.	18.0
Pierre-Paul	N.Y.G.	16.5
Ald. Smith	S.F.	14.0
Long	St.L.	13.0
Avril	Det.	11.0
C. Clemons	Sea.	11.0
T. Cole	Phil.	11.0
Peppers	Chi.	11.0
Abraham	Atl.	9.5
C. Johnson	Car.	9.0
Orakpo	Wash.	9.0
Umenyiora	N.Y.G.	9.0
Campbell	Ariz.	8.0
Robison	Minn.	8.0
Vanden Bosch	Det.	8.0
Clayborn	T.B.	7.5
Rom. Harper	N.O.	7.5
Kerrigan	Wash.	7.5
J. Smith	S.F.	7.5
Acho	Ariz.	7.0
Brooks	S.F.	7.0
Melton	Chi.	7.0
Smith	N.O.	6.5
Bowen	Wash.	6.0
J. Hall	St.L.	6.0
Matthews	G.B.	6.0
Spencer	Dall.	6.0
Carriker	Wash.	5.5
Jenkins	Phil.	5.5
McDonald	S.F.	5.5
Bishop	G.B.	5.0
Idonije	Chi.	5.0
Quinn	St.L.	5.0
Tollefson	N.Y.G.	5.0
Tuck	N.Y.G.	5.0
D. Washington	Ariz.	5.0
K. Williams	Minn.	5.0
Galette	N.O.	4.5
Hatcher	Dall.	4.5
Jackson	Det.	4.5
Schofield	Ariz.	4.5
Bennett	T.B.	4.0
Canty	N.Y.G.	4.0
Griffen	Minn.	4.0
Hardy	Car.	4.0
Hill	Sea.	4.0
Keiser	Car.	4.0
Okoye	Chi.	4.0
Sidbury	Atl.	4.0
Suh	Det.	4.0
Weatherspoon	Atl.	4.0
Dockett	Ariz.	3.5
Edwards	Atl.	3.5
Kiwanuka	N.Y.G.	3.5
Branch	Sea.	3.0
Brock	Sea.	3.0
Butler	Dall.	3.0
Casillas	N.O.	3.0
Cofield	Wash.	3.0
G. Gibson	St.L.	3.0
Haggans	Ariz.	3.0
Hargrove	Sea.	3.0
Laurinaitis	St.L.	3.0
Lenon	Ariz.	3.0
Peters	Atl.	3.0
Price	T.B.	3.0
Raji	G.B.	3.0
Stewart	St.L.	3.0
Tulloch	Det.	3.0
Walden	G.B.	3.0
J. Wynn	G.B.	3.0
W. Young	Det.	3.0
Biermann	Atl.	2.5
Neblett	Car.	2.5
Patterson	Phil.	2.5
Shirley	Car.	2.5
Tapp	Phil.	2.5
Applewhite	Car.	2.0
Bowman	S.F.	2.0
Chamberlain	St.L.	2.0
Foster	T.B.	2.0
Grant	S.F.	2.0
Greenway	Minn.	2.0
Haralson	S.F.	2.0
Hawthorne	Sea.	2.0
E.J. Henderson	Minn.	2.0
Hunt	Phil.	2.0
Joseph	N.Y.G.	2.0
Landri	Phil.	2.0
Lissemore	Dall.	2.0
Marshall	Ariz.	2.0
McBride	N.O.	2.0
Munnerlyn	Car.	2.0
Neild	Wash.	2.0
Paea	Chi.	2.0
Ratliff	Dall.	2.0
Rhodes	Ariz.	2.0
Scandrick	Dall.	2.0
Walker	Atl.	2.0
C. Williams	Det.	2.0
Willis	S.F.	2.0
Woodson	G.B.	2.0
Wright	Sea.	2.0
J. Anderson	Car.	1.5
Ayodele	Minn.	1.5
Bowers	T.B.	1.5
Bush	G.B.	1.5
Fletcher	Wash.	1.5
Golston	Wash.	1.5
Hawk	G.B.	1.5
Er. Henderson	Minn.	1.5
Sa. Hill	Det.	1.5
Landry	Wash.	1.5
Parker	Phil.	1.5
Abdullah	Minn.	1.0
Ah You	St.L.	1.0
Babineaux	Atl.	1.0
Barber	T.B.	1.0
Bigby	Sea.	1.0
Boley	N.Y.G.	1.0
Bryant	Sea.	1.0
Burnett	G.B.	1.0
Carter	Ariz.	1.0
Chancellor	Sea.	1.0
Chaney	Phil.	1.0
Charleston	N.O.	1.0
Coleman	Dall.	1.0
C. Davis	Chi.	1.0
Dunbar	N.O.	1.0
Durant	Det.	1.0
Eason	Ariz.	1.0
Fairley	Det.	1.0
Gaither	Car.	1.0
Godfrey	Car.	1.0
Grant	N.Y.G.	1.0
Humber	N.O.	1.0
Jenkins	N.O.	1.0
To. Johnson	N.O.	1.0
Jones	T.B.	1.0
B. Jones	G.B.	1.0
Jordan	N.O.	1.0
King	St.L.	1.0
Laws	Phil.	1.0
Levy	Det.	1.0
Lofton	Atl.	1.0
Matthews	Phil.	1.0
McClain	Car.	1.0
McCoy	T.B.	1.0
McCray	Dall.	1.0
McIntosh	Wash.	1.0
Mikell	St.L.	1.0
Owens	Atl.	1.0
Peterson	Ariz.	1.0
Porter	Ariz.	1.0
Riley	Wash.	1.0
Robbins	St.L.	1.0
Rodgers-Cromartie	Phil.	1.0
Rolle	Phil.	1.0
Shanle	N.O.	1.0
Sherels	Minn.	1.0
Smith	Sea.	1.0
So'oto	G.B.	1.0
Spears	Dall.	1.0
Spievey	Det.	1.0
Steltz	Chi.	1.0
Team	Minn.	1.0
Tillman	Chi.	1.0
Torrence	N.O.	1.0
Watson	T.B.	1.0
J. Williams	N.Y.G.	1.0
Wilson	N.O.	1.0
Winfield	Minn.	1.0
Zombo	G.B.	1.0
Atogwe	Wash.	.5
K. Cox	Sea.	.5
Ellis	N.O.	.5
Kearse	Car.	.5
Ro. Lewis	Sea.	.5
Moore	Atl.	.5

AFC PUNTING

	TEAM	NO	YDS	LG	GROSS AVG	TB	INS 20	BLK	RET	RET YDS	NET AVG
Mesko	N.E.	57	2,648	65	46.5	3	24	0	26	220	41.5
Fields	Mia.	78	3,810	70	48.8	7	32	0	47	463	41.1
Lechler	Oak.	78	3,960	80	50.8	9	27	0	44	593	40.9
Colquitt	Den.	101	4,783	66	47.4	7	33	0	51	585	40.2
Colquitt	K.C.	89	4,084	68	45.9	5	27	0	36	411	40.1
Scifres	S.D.	47	2,234	71	47.5	2	17	0	25	329	39.7
Kern	Ten.	86	3,747	64	43.6	7	31	0	36	221	39.4
Huber	Cin.	91	4,023	71	44.2	9	24	0	38	273	39.2
McAfee	Ind.	88	4,098	64	46.6	3	21	1	48	550	39.2
Conley	N.Y.J.	92	3,926	63	42.7	6	32	0	32	241	38.8
Koch	Balt.	73	3,393	63	46.5	9	21	0	33	392	38.6
Moorman	Buff.	72	3,472	66	48.2	10	20	1	43	494	38.1
N. Harris	Jax.	72	3,075	55	42.7	5	13	0	39	246	37.9
Hartmann	Hou.	58	2,573	69	44.4	7	15	0	26	243	37.8
Maynard	Clev.	81	3,282	63	40.5	1	32	0	25	288	36.7
Turk	Jax.-Hou.	43	1,755	65	40.8	6	11	0	15	151	34.5
NON-QUALIFIERS											
Sepulveda	Pitt.	25	1,153	66	46.1	5	8	1	8	37	39.1
Kapinos	Pitt.	34	1,530	59	45.0	1	10	0	21	208	38.3
R. McGee	Clev.	8	288	48	36.0	1	0	0	1	15	31.6

NFC PUNTING

	TEAM	NO	YDS	LG	GROSS AVG	TB	INS 20	BLK	RET	RET YDS	NET AVG
Lee	S.F.	78	3,970	68	50.9	9	28	1	39	315	44.0
Morstead	N.O.	46	2,224	64	48.3	4	13	1	19	118	43.1
Podlesh	Chi.	89	3,903	70	43.9	4	21	0	41	223	40.4
Koenen	T.B.	67	3,023	65	45.1	3	24	0	36	266	40.3
Ryan	Sea.	95	4,431	77	46.6	8	34	0	47	541	39.3
Weatherford	N.Y.G.	82	3,745	62	45.7	6	25	0	41	407	39.2
Rocca	Wash.	66	2,842	63	43.1	1	28	0	32	250	39.0
Bosher	Atl.	70	2,990	59	42.7	4	27	1	31	150	38.9
Masthay	G.B.	55	2,506	71	45.6	4	23	0	24	305	38.6
Kluwe	Minn.	77	3,517	60	45.7	3	22	0	43	532	38.0
Zastudil	Ariz.	87	3,929	66	45.2	5	24	0	48	565	37.5
D. Jones	St.L.	105	4,652	65	44.3	9	29	1	45	552	37.0
Henry	Phil.	66	2,830	60	42.9	9	19	1	31	176	36.9
McBriar	Dall.	58	2,542	68	43.8	7	21	1	26	272	36.1
Donahue	Det.	49	2,093	60	42.7	4	13	0	22	270	35.6
Baker	Car.	66	2,819	56	42.7	5	19	0	35	466	34.1
NON-QUALIFIERS											
C. Jones	Dall.	10	426	54	42.6	1	4	0	3	1	40.5
Graham	Ariz.-Det.	33	1,447	58	43.8	3	12	0	13	137	37.9
Bailey	Dall.	2	79	41	39.5	0	0	0	1	5	37.0
Malone	Det.	5	245	62	49.0	0	0	0	3	122	24.6

NFL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES EASTERN

WEEK ONE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5

Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

Indianapolis at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Denver, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 10

Cincinnati at Baltimore, 7 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 10:15 p.m.

WEEK TWO

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13

Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

Kansas City at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Miami, 1 p.m.
Arizona at New England, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Washington at St. Louis, 4:05 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh, 4:15 p.m.
Tennessee at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Detroit at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 17

Denver at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK THREE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20

N.Y. Giants at Carolina, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23

St. Louis at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Washington, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
New England at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 24

Green Bay at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK FOUR

(Byes: Indianapolis, Pittsburgh)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 27

Cleveland at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30

Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
New England at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Seattle at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.
Miami at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at Jacksonville, 4:05 p.m.
Oakland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 1

Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK FIVE

(Byes: Dallas, Detroit, Oakland, Tampa Bay)

THURSDAY, OCT. 4

Arizona at St. Louis, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 7

Miami at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Carolina, 4:05 p.m.
Chicago at Jacksonville, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at New England, 4:15 p.m.
Buffalo at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
San Diego at New Orleans, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 8

Houston at N.Y. Jets, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK SIX

(Byes: Carolina, Chicago, Jacksonville, New Orleans)

THURSDAY, OCT. 11

Pittsburgh at Tennessee, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 14

Oakland at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Miami, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
New England at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at Houston, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 15

Denver at San Diego, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK SEVEN

(Byes: Atlanta, Denver, Kansas City, Miami, Philadelphia, San Diego)

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

Seattle at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 21

Tennessee at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 4:15 p.m.
Jacksonville at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 22

Detroit at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK EIGHT

(Byes: Baltimore, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Houston)

THURSDAY, OCT. 25

Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 28

Carolina at Chicago, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
New England at St. Louis (London), 1 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Kansas City, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
New Orleans at Denver, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 29

San Francisco at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK NINE

(Byes: New England, N.Y. Jets, St. Louis, San Francisco)

THURSDAY, NOV. 1

Kansas City at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 4

Denver at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Miami at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Houston, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
Dallas at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 5

Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 10

(Byes: Arizona, Cleveland, Green Bay, Washington)

THURSDAY, NOV. 8

Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 11

N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Miami, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Denver at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 12

Kansas City at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 11

(Byes: Minnesota, N.Y. Giants, Seattle, Tennessee)

THURSDAY, NOV. 15

Miami at Buffalo, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 18

Arizona at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at New England, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
San Diego at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 19

Chicago at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 12

THURSDAY, NOV. 22

Houston at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
New England at N.Y. Jets, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 25

Minnesota at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Miami, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
San Francisco at New Orleans, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 26

Carolina at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 13

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

Jacksonville at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Arizona at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 3

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 14

THURSDAY, DEC. 6

Denver at Oakland, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

St. Louis at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Washington, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Miami at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 10

Houston at New England, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 15

THURSDAY, DEC. 13

Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16

N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Washington at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 8:20 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 17

N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 8:30 p.m.

WEEK 16

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

Atlanta at Detroit, 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

New Orleans at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Carolina, 1 p.m.
New England at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Chicago at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
San Diego at N.Y. Jets, 8:20 p.m.

WEEK 17

SUNDAY, DEC. 30

Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 4:15 p.m.

Editor's note: Sunday-night games in Weeks 11-16 subject to change. Sunday-night game in Week 17 TBD.

POSTSEASON

SATURDAY, JAN. 5
AFC and NFC wild-card playoffs

SUNDAY, JAN. 6
AFC and NFC wild-card playoffs

SATURDAY, JAN. 12
AFC and NFC divisional playoffs

SUNDAY, JAN. 13
AFC and NFC divisional playoffs

SUNDAY, JAN. 20
AFC and NFC championship games

SUNDAY, JAN. 27
Pro Bowl, in Hawaii

SUNDAY, FEB. 3
Super Bowl XLVII, in New Orleans

SHOP ALL THE NEW 2012 NFL NIKE GEAR

$4.99 3-day Shipping On Any Size Order*
*U.S. only

NEW ERA 2012 NFL DRAFT HATS

NEW ERA

Pro Football WEEKLY FAN SHOP

WWW.PROFOOTBALLWEEKLY.COM

HOW DO YOU OPEN IT?
THE NEW PUNCH TOP™ CAN.

Miller Lite
Screwdriver responsible for the '09 ceiling fan debacle.
"Faulty" spark plug from third date with Duane.
Needle-nose pliers/unibrow tamer.
Don't wear these in waterbed. Ever again.
Pen you took from pretty bank teller so you could return it to pretty bank teller.
IT'S MILLER TIME.
Official Punch Top™ opener, in case you can't find your spur.
Harmonica you got from shoe trade with hobo.
The lucky lure you snagged Alan with. Sorry, Alan.
Flash drive with Mexico pics. NSFW
Protractor. Or is it a compass?
Junk you found hiking near Roswell, NM.

IT'S Miller TIME.

GREAT BEER. GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. | facebook.com/millerlite #punchtop